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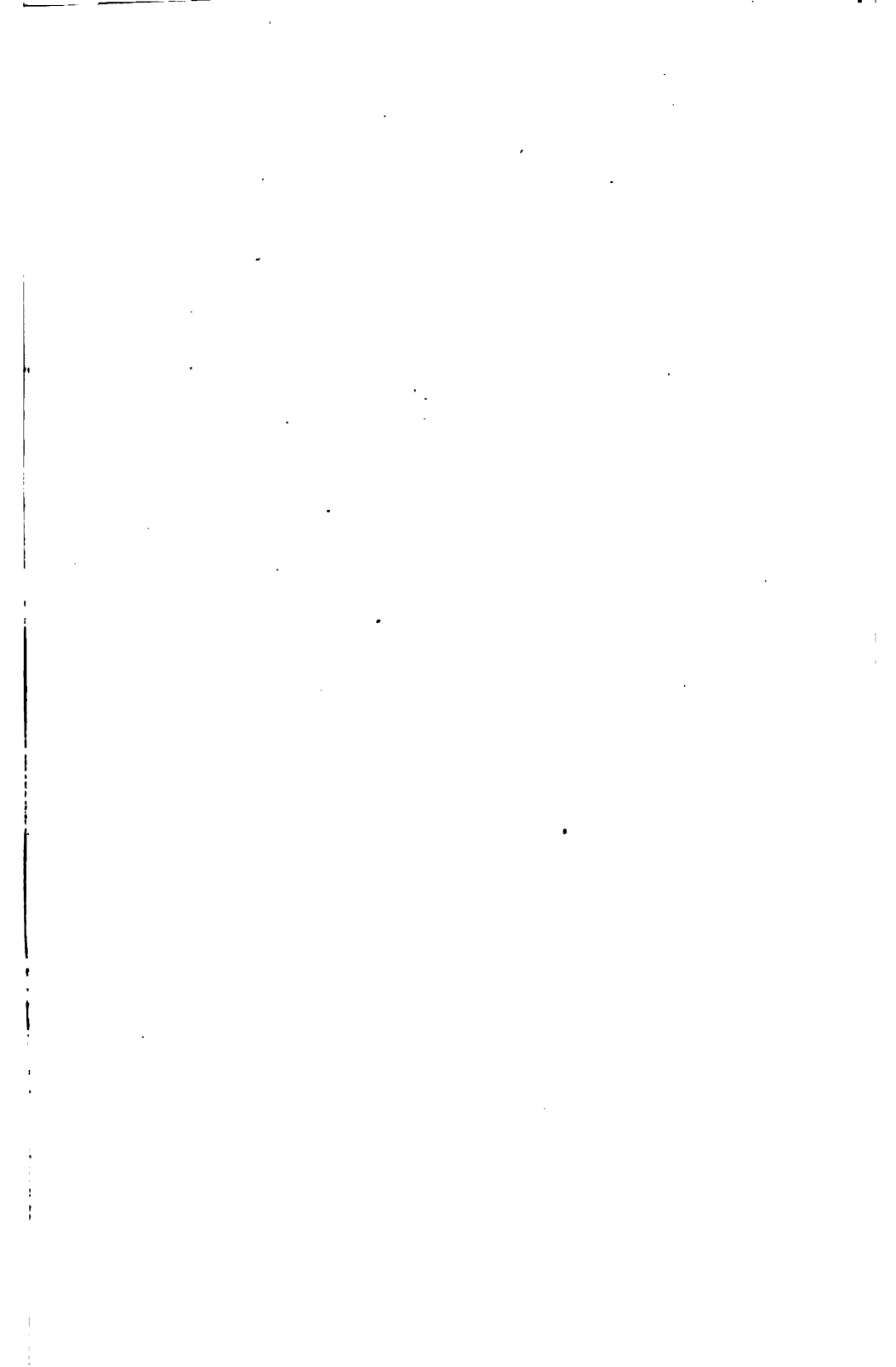


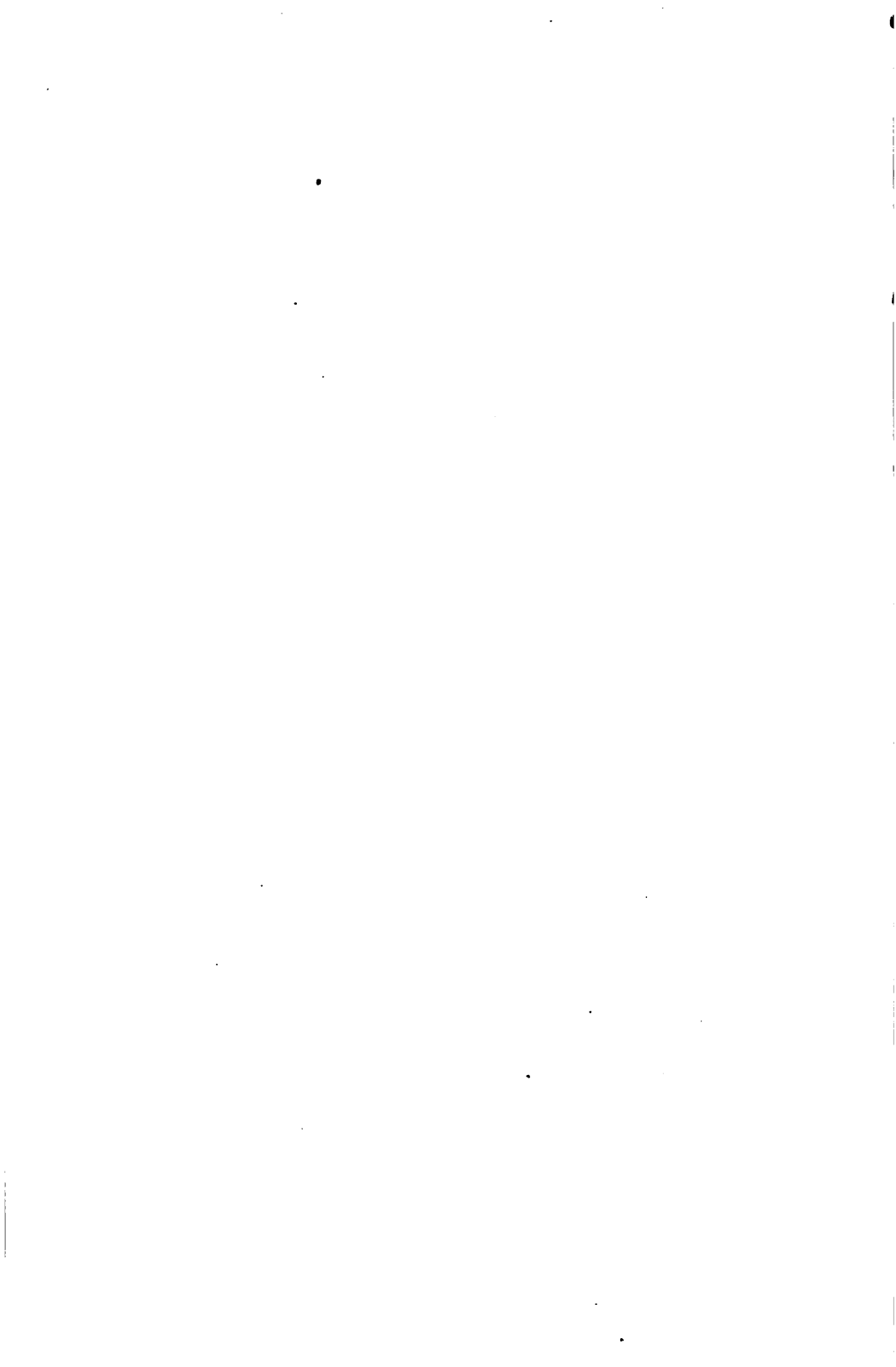
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A SHORT HISTORY OF SHERBORNE.



A SHORT  
HISTORY OF SHERBORNE

FROM 705 A.D.

BY

W. B. WILDMAN, M.A.,

Assistant Master in Sherborne School.

*SECOND EDITION.*

1902.

SHERBORNE :

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# PREFACE

TO THE  
SECOND EDITION.

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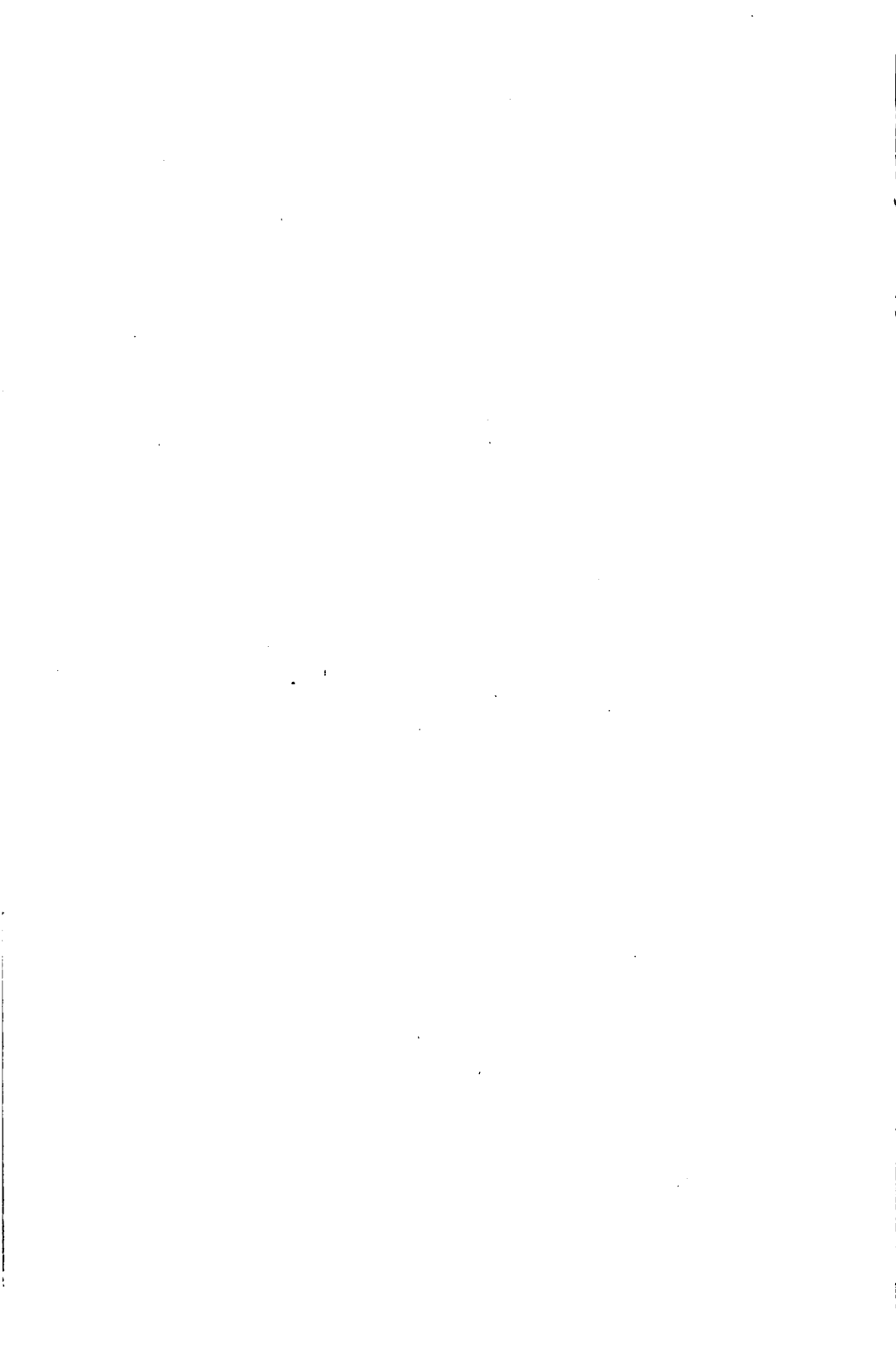
THE first edition being now sold out, a second is issued, which I hope will disappear as quickly as its predecessor.

The first edition was made as cheap as possible, so that it might be the more readily bought and a knowledge of what Sherborne has been and is, might be spread abroad. The same is the case with the second edition, while the print is better. Several points have been corrected, which were wrongly put before. The book is still not complete; I have in my possession material for writing the history of Sherborne Hundred, but not enough. Some other man may get hold of records connected with Sherborne, which I think must exist in the archives of the Bishop, and of the Dean and Chapter of Sarum, and probably also in the County archives (if there are any preserved) at Dorchester. From the Almshouse Accounts too, much I think might be got, and certainly among the Digby Papers there must be matter relating to the great manor of Sherborne in old days.

I believe I have got hold of all that is to be gathered from the School records. I intend to give to the School Library, if it will have them, the copies I made of the old School Accounts from 1553 to 1707, and of the Parish Accounts from 1509 to 1719, together with the note book in which I have gathered for years past all that I could find about this place; for they would be useful to anyone hereafter, who may wish to deal with Sherborne history.

W.B.W.

*Sherborne, 19th May, 1902.*



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The authorities used by me in compiling this Short History of Sherborne are :—

The English Chronicle, Rolls Series.

William of Malmesbury, G. P. and G. R. Rolls Series.

Hutchins, History of Dorset, Edition of 1870.

Dugdale, Monasticon.

Professor Willis's Paper on Sherborne Abbey, Archaeological Journal, vol. xxii., 1865.

Professor E. A. Freeman's Paper on King Ine, &c., Somerset Archaeological and History Society's Proceedings, vol. xx., 1874.

G. T. Clarke's Paper on Sherborne Castle, Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society's Proceedings, vol. xx., 1874.

Herbert Carpenter's Paper on Sherborne Abbey and School, Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Proceedings, vol. xx., 1874.

Sherborne School, Governors' Old Minute Books, Old Account Rolls. Deeds, and other Documents.

J. R. Green, Making of England.

Harston, Handbook of Sherborne.

Rev. H. D. Harper, D.D., Tercentary of the refounding of Sherborne School.

Professor Wilkins, R.A., Report of the State of Repair of Sherborne Church, 1828 ; with MS. Notes by the Rev. R. Lyon, D.D.

S. R. Gardiner, History of England, 1603-1642.

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Haddan and Stubbs, *Councils and Ecclesiastical Documents*.

Somerset and Dorset *Notes and Queries*.

Leland, *Itinerary*.

Thomas Carlyle, *Cromwell's Letters*.

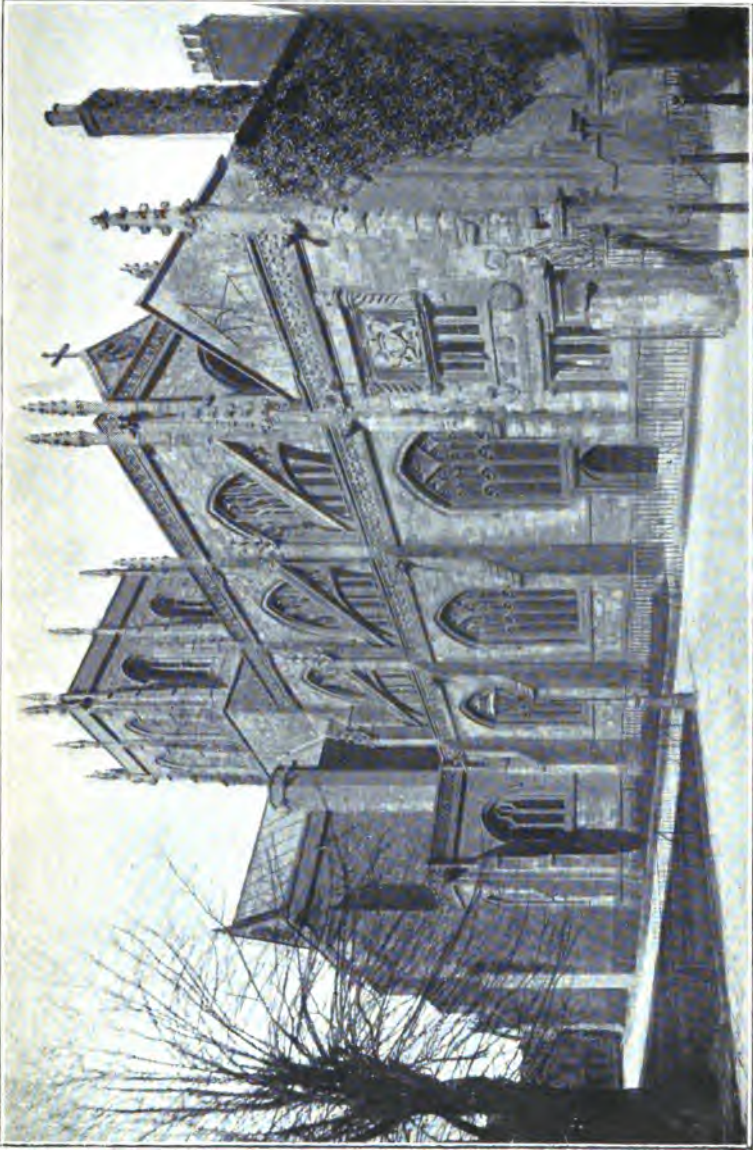
A M.S. Folio, among the Digby papers, giving the leases and deeds affecting Sir Walter Raleigh's tenure of Sherborne Manor, and the decrees of the Court of Exchequer concerning them. The date of this folio, I think, is not later than 1610.

E. Gosse, *Raleigh; English Worthies Series*.

E. Edwards, *Life of Raleigh*.

W B WILDMAN.

*Shebrorne, May, 1902.*



SHERBORNE ABBEY—SOUTH EAST.





## CHAPTER I.

### THE HISTORY OF SHERBORNE FROM 705 TO 1122.

Origin of the Town A.D. 705. Sherborne is first mentioned in history as the place, at which S. Ealdhelm fixed the seat of the Bishopric of the Western or Newer Wessex—a tract of country won for England from the West-Welsh by the conquests of Kings Kenwealh and Kentwine from 652 to 682. This tract of country was at first under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the West Saxon Bishop, whose seat was at Winchester. The Bishop towards the end of this period of conquest was Hædde (676-703), and in spite of the greatly increased size of his diocese there seems to have been some reluctance to divide it during his life-time. On his death however, the division was made; the older Wessex, consisting of Hants, the greater part of Wilts, Berks and Surrey and that part of the older Wessex, if any there still was, north of the Thames un-annexed by Mercia, was assigned to Hædde's successor in the see of Winchester; the newer Wessex, the lands of Dorset and Somerset with that part of Wilts which we may call the land of Malmesbury, became the diocese of the Bishop of Sherborne in 705.

Sherborne then first emerges into the light of history as the place selected for the site of the second city of Wessex, the capital of the Newer Wessex, the land west of the great forest of Selwood. The question then arises: did S. Ealdhelm fix his see in a town already existing or in an already existing

mission-station around which perhaps a small settlement was beginning to gather, or did he in fixing his see here found and begin the town of Sherborne? There certainly are no remains here of either a Roman or a British town, and we have no means now of discovering whether Englishmen had settled in this place before 705, but of this much we can be certain, that Sherborne like Wells and Lichfield grew into importance as a Bishop's town; its name is purely English and its origin probably the same.

Meaning of the name.      The place-name *Sherborne* is not confined to our own town; there are at least four other places of the name, but ours is at any rate the best known. The word is a combination of the two old English words *scir* clear and *burne* a brook or spring, and the Monks called the place *Fons Limpidus*. What is the *Scir burne*? Is it the Yeo, or is it the great spring known for centuries as the New Well, the source of the water-supply of the Abbey, that stream which filled its conduit and its fish-ponds and turned its mill, and which still supplies the huge Bath of the School and the Conduit? From the fact that this spring is called the *New Well*, I am inclined to think that the *Scir burne* was some old water-supply and probably therefore the river Yeo itself. The New Well however, is not exactly a modern spring for it is certainly older than the New College in Oxford or the New Castle by the Tyne, or the New Forest, as such, which is really a fragment of the great forest to the east of the Newer Wessex.

Sherborne for a time the capital of Wessex.      If any man holds that the first capital of the West-Saxon Settlement in England was Southampton, I shall not dispute it; for otherwise I cannot see why the original conquest of the West-Saxons was in later years called *Hamtun-scir* to distinguish it from *Wiltun-scir* and *Bearroo-scir*, the three *pagi* which together with Surrey and certain lands beyond the Thames made up at one time the Older Wessex. For a brief



space from 635 it seemed as though the capital of Wessex might become fixed at Dorchester-on-Thames ; but the Mercian Kings taught the West-Saxons that this town was too much exposed to their assaults, and in 676 the seat of the West-Saxon bishopric was definitely fixed at Winchester. From that time onward Winchester was not only the chief town of the older Wessex, but the capital of the whole West Saxon Kingdom, and from 705 the second place was held by Sherborne. For a brief space, however, Sherborne actually held the dignity of being the capital city, and it owed this to its situation. It lies, as we have seen, to the west of Westwood or Selwood, the great forest which divided Wessex into two parts ; it lies also on the high ground midway between sea and sea ; The *Fons Limpidus* flows into the Parret and so to the Severn sea ; scarcely two miles to the south of Sherborne we find one of the sources of the river Lidden, which, very soon after it is crossed by the Somerset and Dorset Railway, joins the Stour and so flows out by Christchurch into the English Channel. Thus, unlike Winchester, which lies in the Gwent of Hampshire, Sherborne, situated as it is on the backbone of the West, is not easily accessible to marauders from the sea. King Ecgberht of Wessex (802-837) in right of an overlordship, which stretched from the Forth to the English Channel, might well be called "King of the English," but this greatness of Wessex was short-lived. The Northmen were again beginning to send out their pirate-fleets, they swept like a storm over England, destroying for a time all government, arts and letters. Only in one corner of the land did Englishmen hold their own throughout, namely in this part of Wessex, of which Sherborne is the centre. Between the years of 871 and 933 three Bishops of Sherborne fell in battle against the Danes. Heahmund, Werstan, and Sigelm. I omit from the list Wigberht, whom Dugdale's *Monasticon* states to have been killed by the Danes in 833 ; Wigberht died in 824, and Dugdale has confused him with Wigthen, Bishop of Winchester, who, according to the English Chronicle, fell in 833. King Æthelwulf, Ecgberht's successor, fought a good fight for his realm against

the pirates, and his best general was Ealhstan, Bishop of Sherborne. The first complete victory over the Danes was won in 845 at the mouth of the Parret, and Bishop Ealhstan won it. The dust of this warrior rests in Sherborne ; Æthelwulf himself was buried at Winchester in 856, for Winchester was still, it seems, safe enough from the Danes to be the chief seat of government. But this was not the case in the time of Æthelwulf's three elder sons, Æthelbald, Æthelberht, and Æthelred ; from 860 to 878 Winchester was too much exposed to the fury of the Northmen, and Sherborne became the capital. Hence it is that Æthelbald and Æthelberht are buried in Sherborne ; hence it is that Sherborne, like Winchester and Glastonbury, is a rival of Westminster itself. King Æthelwulf was succeeded by each of his four sons in turn, and their graves mark the headway made against the Dane ; Æthelbald and Æthelberht lie at Sherborne, Æthelred at Wimborne, and Alfred at Winchester, the home and capital of his race. When we remember how Sherborne from 860 to 878 was the capital of Wessex, it seems to follow that King Alfred himself, about whose boyhood we know so little, was once a boy in Sherborne School.

Division of the Diocese of Sherborne.	After the complete conquest of West Wales, Devon at least if not Cornwall, was added to the see of Sherborne. But in 909 the Dioceses of Somerset and Devon, with their sees at Wells and Crediton, were taken out of the diocese of Sherborne ; and at the same time the diocese of Wilts and Berks, with its see at Ramsbury or Sunning, was taken out of that of Winchester. Probably at this time too that part of Wilts, the land of Malmesbury which had belonged to Sherborne, was added to Ramsbury, as it certainly formed part of that diocese in the days of Edward the Confessor. Those who know their William of Malmesbury will accuse me of a blunder ; for that historian states that the <i>original</i> diocese of Sherborne consisted of Wilts, Dorset, Berks, Somerset, Devon and Corn-
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wall. Bishop Stubbs and the late Mr. Haddan have so far followed William of Malmesbury as to assign Wilts and Berks to the original Sherborne Diocese : Canon Bright does the same. The English Chronicle, however, under the year 709, distinctly tells us that the Eastern boundary of S. Ealdhelm's diocese was Selwood, it follows therefore, that nearly all Wilts and the whole of Berks were not in it. William of Malmesbury made his blunder of including Wilts and Berks, because in his own day Dorset, Wilts and Berks were all in the same diocese, for Edward the Confessor had united the sees of Sherborne and Ramsbury under Bishop Hermann, in 1058. And this mistake has been repeated by writer after writer down to our own time ; at last Mr. E. A. Freeman put the case right in a Paper on King Ine, which will be found in the "Transactions of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society, 1874."

Bishop's seat removed from Sherborne to Old Sarum.	After the formation of the sees of Wells and Crediton in 909, the diocese of Sherborne consisted of Dorset only, and the town of Sherborne was no longer anything like central in the diocese. In 1058, as we have already said, the dioceses of Sherborne and Ramsbury were united by Edward the Confessor, and in 1075 Bishop Hermann removed the see of the united diocese from Sherborne to Old Sarum, as being more central. There can be no doubt that this transfer much affected the importance of Sherborne.
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Rule of S. Benedict introduced into Sherborne Cathedral.	In 998 King Æthelred the "Unready" by charter granted leave to Bishop Wulfsey III. of Sherborne, to introduce into his Cathedral here the rule of S. Benedict. In the 10th century and especially towards the close of it, as the year 1000 drew near, a strong conviction spread through Christendom that the second
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Advent was at hand, and that men must put their houses in order. For this reason therefore, (as King Æthelred says in this Charter of 998: *quoniam sicut ait Apostolus nos sumus in quos fines seculorum devenerunt*) Bishop Wulfsy reformed the Sherborne Chapter by introducing the rule of S. Benedict. The Bishop was to be Abbot; it is for this reason, that down to 1122 the monastery of Sherborne is often called a priory, just as the great monastery of Durham is; for, the Abbot being also Bishop, the Working Ruler was really the Prior or second in command. It has often been stated that this Bishop Wulfsy is the same person as the Bishop of Sherborne of that name who was canonised; William of Malmesbury has made many mistakes about the Sherborne Bishops and herein he is certainly wrong, when he thinks that the Bishop whom he calls Wulsin and whom he places in the list of Sherborne Bishops between Ælfred and Ælfwold, and whom he evidently regards as S. Wulsin, is the same as he who introduced the Benedictine rule into Sherborne. This will be evident to anyone who will study the list of Sherborne Bishops which is given further on. I cannot decide for certain, which of the three Bishops of Sherborne, who bore the name of Wulfsy or Wulsin, was the Saint, but assuming that William of Malmesbury is right in placing the Saint between Ælfred and Ælfwold (as very probably he is, for the Saint was no doubt a better known man than the other two of the name and his place in the list better marked) I think it follows that the Saint is Wulfsy II. and not Wulfsy III.; and there is no doubt whatever that it was Wulfsy III, who introduced the Benedictine rule into Sherborne.

Sherborne Abbey in Domesday Book.	The record of Sherborne Abbey in Domesday Book is very interesting; The Bishop appears as temporal lord of Sherborne, but nine of the manors which he holds in this neighbourhood are set apart for the maintenance of the monks, whose Abbot he is. The monks therefore had no
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freehold of their own ; and the Bishop and the monks are men as a body, a corporation, which was in the habit of acting together, in that curious entry in Domesday, wherein occurs the only mention of any of the Conqueror's sons. This entry tells how William the Red took away a possession of the Church of Sherborne without the consent of the Bishop and monks ; the entry concerns some land at Stalbridge, and runs thus : *De eadem etiam terra tenet Manasses iii Virgatas quas W. filius regis tulit ab ecclesia sine consensu episcopi et monachorum.*

Bishop Roger separates the office of Abbot of Sherborne from that of Bishop of the Diocese.

Of all the Rulers of Sherborne none, not even S. Ealdhelm himself, was more remarkable than Roger of Caen the chief minister of Henry I., the first of that great family of statesmen and financiers which gave four bishops to the English Church. He stands out in History not only as a great statesman but also as a great builder.

He created and organised the English Court of Exchequer ; he also made a study of architecture, both ecclesiastical and military : to him William of Malmesbury, his contemporary, ascribes the introduction of that later form of the Norman style, the fine-jointed masonry, of which we have such splendid fragments here in Sherborne, both in his Norman Castle and in his Norman Church. His castle he built on the site of the home of his predecessors in the see, his church on the site of Ealdhelm's, which he pulled down. One fragment he left of Ealdhelm's own work in the N. side of the W. wall of the present Abbey Church ; the blocked-up doorway and the adjoining wall, which may still be seen there, carry us back to the beginning of the 8th century. The fact that the Abbey Church of Sherborne was not re-built earlier under Norman rule is proof positive, if we had no other, that Ealdhelm's Church here was, in workmanship, superior to most of the pre-conquest churches. But we have also direct testimony on this

head from William of Malmesbury, who is a most competent witness ; referring to Ealdhelm he writes : *Habuitque sedem Scireburniae, ubi et ecclesiam, quam ego quoque vidi, mirifice construxit.* The defect of Ealdhelm's Church in Roger's opinion was its size, it was not large enough for the new notions. But it may be asked : how do we know that Bishop Roger built the Norman Church here ? The answer is, that William of Malmesbury tells us that Bishop Roger built Sherborne Old Castle, and without going into arguments from other buildings of Roger's which still exist we may safely say that a comparison of the Castle with the Norman work in the Church makes it a fairly certain inference that whoever built the Castle built the Church ; there is further the negative evidence, that there is no trace of any other builder than Roger. But Bishop Roger not only built our Norman Castle and Norman Church, he also separated the office of Abbot of Sherborne from that of Bishop of Sarum ; from 1122 onwards the monks of Sherborne had no longer the Bishop for their Abbot, they had an Abbot of their own, and the Bishop by a Charter of Henry I. assigned to the Abbot and Convent of Sherborne the nine manors already alluded to in Domesday, and other property to be held by them as their own apart from him. At the same time and by the same authority he reduced the Abbey of Horton in this county to the *status* of a Priory, dependent as a cell on Sherborne Abbey. The Priory of Kidwelly, in Carmarthenshire, was also made a cell of Sherborne Abbey before 1145, as is evident from a Bull of Pope Eugenius III., which gives a list of the possessions and privileges of Sherborne Abbey.

—):o:(—

I give a list of Bishops of Sherborne and of those Bishops of Sarum who were also Abbots of Sherborne, taken from Bp. Stubbs's *Registrum Sacrum Anglicanum* ; I have added a few details which are printed in *italics*.

## A. Bishops and Abbots of Sherborne.

Date.	Name.	Authorities and Notes.
705	S. Ealdhelm	Bede H.E., V. 18 ; F. Wig. 705.
709	Forthere	{ Bede H.E., V. 18 ; Eng. Chron. 709 737 ; subscribes 712—737.
736	Herewald	Sim. D. 736. Subs. 737—595. Subs. 766*
766 x 778	Æthelmod	Subs. 778—789.
793	Denefrith	{ Profession Roll, Canterbury. Subs. 794—796.
796 x 801	Wigberht	{ Subs. 801—816. Eng. Chron. 812. <i>In the Monasticon he is mistaken for Bp. Wigthen of Winchester.</i>
824	Ealhstan	{ Eng. Chron. 823. F. Wig. 816. Subs. 824—862. In 824 he subscribes as electus ; <i>buried at Sherborne.</i> Eng. Chron. 867.
868	Heahmund	{ Subs. 868—870. <i>Killed at Merton.</i> Eng. Chron. 871.
871	Ætheleage	Subs. 871 x 878.
878 x 889	Wulfsy I.	Subs. 889—892.
892 x 900	Asser	{ Subs. 900—904. <i>Died 910 Eng. Chron. He wrote the life of King Alfred.</i>
910	Æthelweard	Subs. 910. <i>Son of King Alfred.</i>
910 x 918	Werstan	{ F. Wig. Catalogue. <i>Killed in Battle against the Danes. W.M., G.P. II. cap. 80.</i>
918	Æthelbald	F. Wig, 918.
918 x 926	Sighelm	{ Subs. 926—932. <i>Bp. Godwin says he was killed in battle against the Danes ; this may be due to a confusion with Ealdor- man Sighelm killed in 905. Eng. Chron.</i>
933	Ælfred	{ Subs. 933—943. Died according to F. Wig, 941.
943	S. Wulfsy II.	{ Subs. 943—958. <i>There are insuperable difficulties in the account of him by Hutchins.</i>
958	Ælfwold I.	{ Subs. 961—975. F. Wig. 978 Eng. Chron. 978, <i>tells us he was buried at Sherborne.</i>
978	Æthelsy I.	Subs. 979—990. F. Wig. 978.

992	Wulfsy III.	{ Subs. 993—1001, introduces <i>Benedictine rule at Sherborne.</i>
1001	Æthelric	Subs. 1002—1009.
1009 x 1012	Æthelsy II.	Subs. 1012—1014.
1014 x 1018	Brightwy I.	Subs. 1018.
1018 x 1020	Ælmer	Subs. 1020—1022.
1023	Brightwy II.	Subs. 1023—1045.
1045	S. Ælfwold II.	{ Subs. 1046—1050; <i>brother of his predecessor.</i>
1058	Hermann	{ Eng. Chron. 1045. Subs. 1045—1065. <i>Consecrated Bishop of Ramsbury 1045, united Ramsbury and Sherborne 1058; removed the united see to Old Sarum 1075.</i>

B. Bishops of Sarum who were also Abbots of Sherborne.

1078	Osmund	{ Profession Roll, Canterbury. (d. 3 Dec. 1099.) <i>Compiler of the Sarum Missal, &amp;c.</i>
1107	Roger	{ Profession Roll, Canterbury. Sim. Dun. 230, &c. (d. 4 Dec. 1139.)

NOTE.—*The form 766 x 778 and the like mean, that the event referred to happened between these dates. Bede H.E.=Bede's Ecclesiastical History. F. Wig.=Florence of Worcester, who had access to a version of the English Chronicle now lost. Eng. Chron.=English Chronicle. A date with \* attached is that of a doubtful Charter. 'Subscribes' or 'Subs'='attests Charters.' Profession Roll=the Roll upon which are entered the professions of obedience made by suffragans to their metropolitans. Sim. Dun.=Simeon of Durham.*

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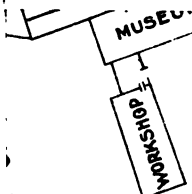
## CHAPTER II.

### THE DOMESTIC BUILDINGS OF THE ABBEY.

In the last chapter I brought the history of Sherborne down to the date when the Bishop severed his close tie with the monastery; henceforth the great Manor of Sherborne is divided, and we have on the one hand the Manor of the Bishop, with its

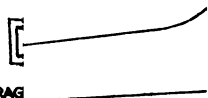


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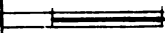
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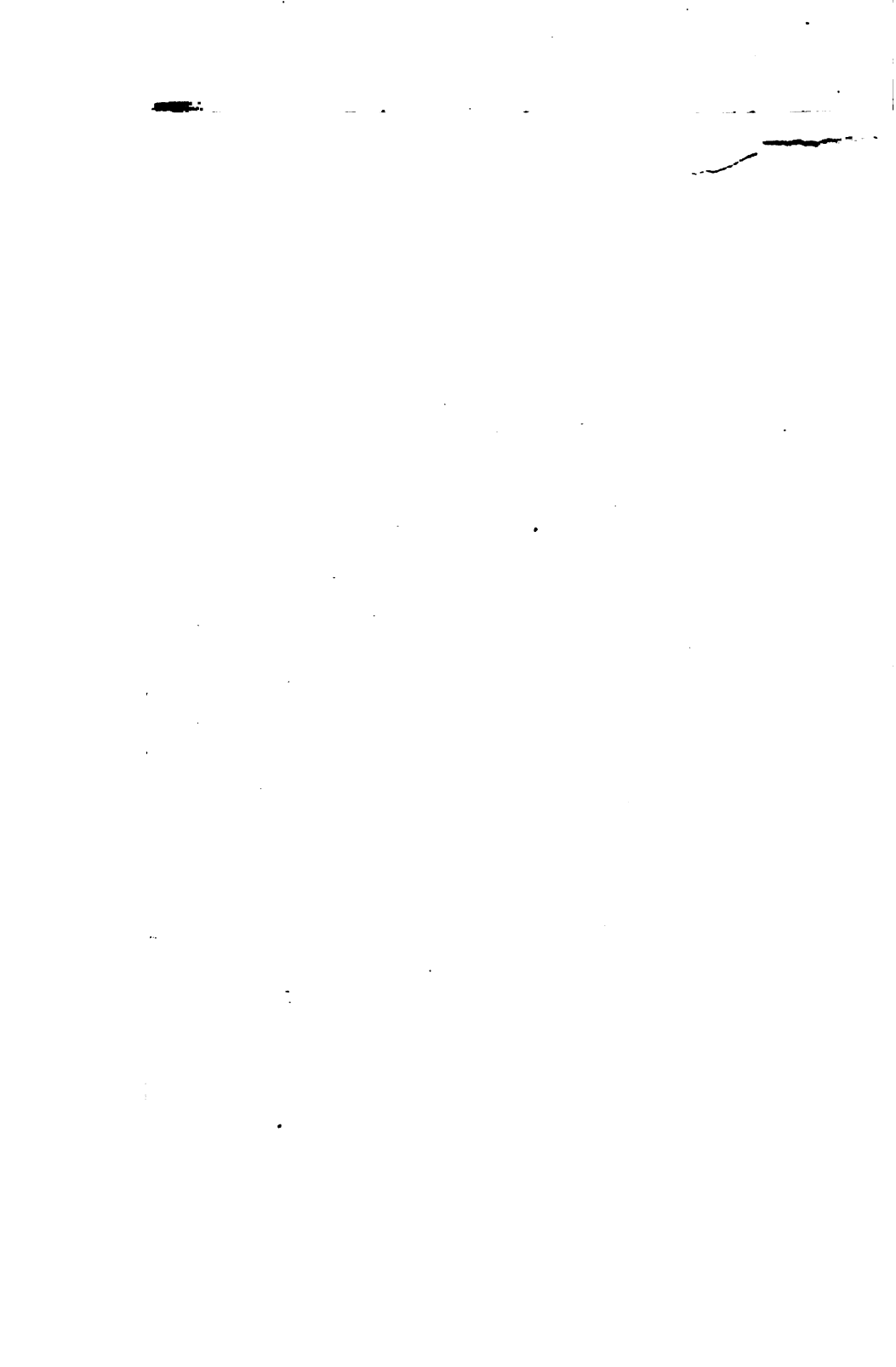


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headquarters at the Castle, and on the other the Manor of the Abbey or Abbot's fee. I propose now to describe the Abbey itself, and I think that I can make the subject clear most easily, if I take the domestic buildings first, reserving the Church for the next chapter.

The Cloister Court.      The principal buildings of a Benedictine Monastery were grouped round the Cloister Court, which usually lay on the S. side of the Nave of the Church. At Sherborne the Cloister was on the N. side; it would be hard to give a sufficient reason for this; the S. is the sunny side, but no doubt if the lie of the ground or the water supply or any other good cause made the N. side more convenient, it would be chosen. In the middle of the Cloister court stood the Conduit, long ago removed to the Parade; here the washing, shaving, and hairdressing of the monks was done. The builder of the Cloisters was Abbot Frihe, 1349—1371; the builder of the Conduit was Abbot Mere, 1504—1535. The Cloisters had on each side eight bays with six windows looking into the court. The N. Alley of the Cloister abutted on the Norman undercroft of the Abbot's Hall (the School Chapel now); as this Hall is built in a line not parallel with the Church, it follows that the Cloister Court was not a parallelogram. The Cloisters were vaulted, for the shafts and springing stones still remain in the N. wall of the N. Aisle of the Church Nave and in the E. wall of the Guesten Hall (now the School Library); these walls of course form the S. and W. walls of the Cloister Court.

The Dormitory, Chapter House, Slype, Prior's House, Infirmary.      On the E. side of the Cloister forming a continuation of the N. Transept of the Church stood a long two-storied building of 13th century date; the first floor of it formed the monks' Dormitory, the ground floor was divided probably into three rooms, that to the S. was the Chapter House, a vaulted building

as Leland tells us, and the vault was adorned with paintings of the Bishops of Sherborne. Between the Chapter House and the N. Transept was a passage or Slype leading to the Lytten or graveyard. This Slype still exists of 13th century construction; its W. exit into the cloister is blocked up by a buttress, with the date on it 1560, made necessary by the removal of the cloister; and above the Slype there still stands a piece of the Dormitory with a single-light window almost untouched inside, but tampered with outside. N. of the Chapter House was the Parlour, in which the monks received friends or those who had business with the Abbey. North of this again was the Common-room or *Pisalis* or *domus calefactoria*. N.E. of this Dormitory block stood the Priory or prior's house with a garden to the N. of it; this Priory was taken down in 1749, when it and the garden became the property of the School. To the E. of the Priory partly on the site of the Headmaster's private house stood a building which was probably the Infirmary; of this no trace is left except underground. I saw some of the foundations in 1894, but not enough to give any idea of the ground plan of the building.

<p>The Refectory, Kitchen, Abbot's Lodgings and Abbot's Hall.</p>	<p>On the N. side of the Cloister Court and S. of the Kitchen and Abbot's Lodgings stood the Refectory; it has entirely dis- appeared, though its foundations are there, for I saw part of them in 1894. But the Abbot's Lodgings and the Kitchen are still standing, though much altered and in parts re-built and converted into the School- house studies. The E. and S. walls of this block are modern, but the N. wall is in the main at least as old as the 15th century. Here on the N. of the building still stands an old chimney, with panels once carved with the symbols of the Evangelists, and further W. on the same side is a doorway of the 15th century, with canopy and niches over it. In the projecting half-octagon beside it was the staircase to the first floor of the Abbot's Lodgings, and below the eaves of its roof are some old gargoyles like those of the Abbey Church. The chimney belonged to the</p>
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Kitchen. To the W. of the Abbot's Lodgings stands a fine 15th century Hall (now the School Chapel) on an undercroft of late Norman work. This was the Abbot's Hall; it has been much enlarged since it passed into the ownership of the School. The splendid timber roof is of the 15th century, but the windows are modern. The undercroft, of the 12th century, has of course been also enlarged; it is vaulted, and much of it is genuine 12th century work; the windows are modern, but the doorway opening northward into the modern Perpendicular Cloister is ancient, though not in its original position.

The Guesten Hall. On the W. side of the Cloister Court we have another fine 15th century Hall on a substructure of the 13th century; this substructure was reached by an archway now blocked up leading from the undercroft of the Abbot's Hall. The ground floor of this building as well as the undercroft was no doubt used as a place of storage, larder and the like; the first floor of this building was the Guesten Hall, or, it may be, the Dormitory of the lay brothers, the *Conversi*. In England, however, *Conversi* were practically limited to Cistercian houses. This hall has a fine timber roof of the 15th century, similar to but less elaborate than that of the Abbot's Hall; the three N. bays of this roof are of simpler design than the rest, which suggests the existence of a partition; and the existence of a partition indicates a Guesten Hall rather than a Dormitory. The only ancient approach to this Hall, still existing, is a circular staircase at the S.E. angle of the building; this staircase is lighted by a 13th century single-light window. The tracery of the S. window of this Hall is genuine 15th century work, so is that of four windows on the E. and two on the W.; the other windows are modern, but extremely well done.

The S. Alley of the Cloister Court. At the top of the staircase just described, there is a doorway, now blocked up, which led into the upper story of the S. Alley of the Cloister Court, where the Monastery

Library probably was. The upper story has of course disappeared along with the Cloister itself, but in its S. wall, which is the N. wall of the N. Aisle of the Nave of the Abbey Church, there is still to be seen a *piscina*. If this *piscina* is in its original position, there must have been a chapel between the Monastery Library and the Guesten Hall. There is no door now leading from the S. Alley of the Cloister into the Church, the arched recess on the inside of the wall of the Nave N. Aisle may have been a doorway; but if so, the vaulting of the Cloister at this point must have been supported on a corbel and treated in a special way, for if there had been a shaft, it would have stood in the middle of the doorway. There was before the Restoration of the Nave, begun in 1848, a doorway in the W. wall of the N. Transept, but it is now blocked up. The four-light flowing windows of the Nave N. Aisle are modern; they were put in by R. C. Carpenter, one of them in place of an old window of similar design, which must have been blocked up by the Upper Story of the Cloister; the three buttresses here are of the 16th century, in the old days the cloisters acted as a buttress. The flying buttresses of the Guesten Hall are modern; they would not have been needed if the Cloister had been standing.

<p>The Monastic School, Plumb House, Ankret House, Lady Chapels, &amp;c.</p>	<p>Having now passed round the Cloister Court, let us next move to the E. end of the Church. Here on the site of the present Schoolhouse Dining Hall was the original Sherborne School. The present building dates from 1670, when it replaced a building of 1555, which took the place of a still older building described as the 'Schole,' as is evident from the School Account Rolls. Attached to the E. end of the Church were three Chapels, which in 1560-1561 were converted into a dwelling-house for the Headmaster of the School. The central Chapel is the Lady Chapel, of the 13th century; it was originally of three bays, but only one is left. The Chapel contains beautiful work which is very like that in Salisbury Cathedral; the</p>
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mouldings and carved capitals still keep traces of their colouring and gilding. It is very likely that the same workmen were used on both churches. The Chapel on the S. of this was of at least two, if not three bays, and was dedicated to our Lady of Bow, *i.e.* of the Arch, for it stood near the arched entrance to the Abbey precincts; it is of the 15th century and only one bay of it is left; it still keeps its fan-vault. The Chapel on the N. is practically gone; it must have been removed before Sir John Horsey sold the Chapels to the Governors in 1554, for it is not mentioned in the deed, though the other two Chapels are; the traces which are still left of it behind the timber work in the Old House, are of the 15th century. On the outside these old Chapels are quite disguised, for they are clothed in 16th century walls, which are the stone record of the Reformation in Sherborne. The Abbey Lytten or graveyard of the Monks is the lawn in front of the Headmaster's house, as is evident from the description of it in the deeds which transfer that ground from Sir John Horsey to the School Governors. From the same deeds we learn that hard by was the Plumb House, where the lead-work of the Abbey was done; and near the Chapel of our Lady of Bow was the Ankret House or dwelling of the Anchorite. There was a similar house attached to Westminster Abbey, as Dean Stanley tells us in his *Memorials*: "Here as often in the neighbourhood of great conventual buildings dwelt, apparently from generation to generation, a hermit, who acted as a kind of oracle to the neighbourhood." The Abbey Fishponds were in what is now the Headmaster's garden; the Abbey Mill stood where the School Workshop, Museum, and Laboratory, &c., now stand; the Brewhouse was in the same neighbourhood; the Abbey Barn still stands and is still called the Abbey Grange; the other farm-buildings of the Monastery were on the sites of Abbey House and Abbeylands. The great Court of the School was the Abbey garden; it is a mistake to confuse it with the Abbey Lytten, as Hutchins and others have done; the Abbey Lytten is defined by the School Deeds as being what is now the Headmaster's lawn. The row of ancient

buildings in Half Moon Street, the old Church House, is almost certainly of late 15th century date, and the date 157<sup>o</sup>, which may still be seen thereon, merely tells that at that time some alterations were then made, just as does the date 156<sup>o</sup> on the 15th century Chapel of our Lady of Bow ; and lastly a fragment of the Abbey Gatehouse still faces the Parade, where the Conduit stands banished from its old place.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### THE ABBEY CHURCH AND THE CHURCH OF ALHALOWES, SHERBORNE.

The Norman Abbey Church.      With the exception of part of the W. front of the Abbey Church there is, so far as we know, not a single piece of wall standing now in Sherborne which was standing in the year 1107, when Roger of Caen became Bishop of Sarum and Abbot of Sherborne. We know that the doorway, now blocked up on the S. side of the W. front of the Abbey Church, and therefore also some of the neighbouring wall, is older than Bishop Roger, but with that exception we are forced to admit that the Norman from Caen pulled down all the rest of S. Ealdhelm's Cathedral. If he left anything else, either time has since destroyed it, or he so used the walls that they cannot now be recognised. The late R. H. Carpenter, whose account of the Abbey Church I intend closely to follow, has raised the question as to the way in which Bishop Roger treated the W. end of the Norman Church. There is an archway of his date at the W. end of the S. Aisle of the Nave, which together with S. Ealdhelm's doorway on the N. gave access, Mr. Carpenter



thinks, to a large porch built at the W. end of the Abbey. He thinks that the Saxon Church also had a porch, and his arguments for the existence of the porch are, I think, conclusive : (a) the W. wall of the Abbey Church, the lower part of which is as old or may be older than Roger's day, is exceedingly thin ; (b) it is not faced with ashlar as the other Norman walls of the Church are, and was therefore not an external wall ; (c) an old seal of the Abbey still exists, which represents a Norman Church with a Western as well as a Central tower and a high Western porch ; (d) as the W. end of the Abbey Church was twice altered since Roger's time, first by the building of Alhalowes Church in the end of the 14th century, next by the restoration of the Nave of the Abbey Church in the 15th century, we cannot expect to find traces of this supposed Western porch and tower ; yet at a distance of some 20 feet W. of the W. end of the present Church a foundation of great thickness has been discovered, which may have belonged to it.

The interior of the Norman Church, the Lanterne.

Let us now enter the Church and take our stand under the central tower. The four piers, which support it, are Roger's work ; the tower, like that of Malmesbury, which also Roger built, is broader from N. to S. than from E. to W. These four piers carry four arches, two of which, viz., those opening into the Transepts, are narrower than the other two ; hence in order that the crowns of the four arches may be on a level. the Transept arches are very much stilted ; this also is the case at Malmesbury. At Devizes, another probably of Roger's Churches, the Transept arches are pointed, which is a more advanced way of getting out of the difficulty. The arch opening into the nave is depressed ; this is due partly to its original form, partly to subsequent settlement ; the Norman arch opening into the Choir was replaced in the 15th century by a higher arch in the style of that time.

The nave of the Norman Church. We pass now into the Nave, noticing first the Norman arches leading from the Transepts into the N. and S. Nave Aisles. The walls of the Nave Aisles are at the core of Norman work, as is apparent from the outside though not from the inside; but the character of the walls may be seen on the inside at the W. end of the S. Nave Aisle, where the masonry of the blocked-up Norman doorway has been laid bare. Fortunately there are short lengths of three Norman string-courses still left on the N.W. pier of the tower, from which we can tell the heights respectively (*a*) of the *abaci* of the Norman piers of the Nave (*b*) of the lower edge of the Norman *triforium*, (*c*) of the lower edge of the Norman *clerestory*. No other trace of the Norman triforium or clerestory is left in the Nave, but an idea of the appearance of the clerestory may be got from an inspection of the E. wall of the S. transept on the outside, where a piece of the stone-work of one of the clerestory windows is still *in situ*, which has a rich chevron moulding supported by a shaft with a carved Capital. The spacing of the arcade of piers in the Nave is very irregular as is often the case, the arches immediately W. of the Western piers of the tower are narrower than the others, in order that more support may thus be given to the tower; for a similar reason the two arches immediately E. of the W. wall of the church are narrower, but it is difficult to give a reason for the fact, that the Nave piers on the N. are not generally opposite those on the S. in our Church here. The arches, which spanned the wider spaces between these piers, must have been segmental; had they been semi-circular, as the Easternmost and the Westernmost appear to have been, they would have been too high to come beneath the triforium stage. The walls of the Transepts are to this day Norman.

The Norman Choir.

Traces of Roger's Choir are still visible in the two Chapels, which lie to the N. of the E. Aisle of the present Choir;

one of these, the Wickham Chapel, which is entered from the N. Transept, has E. and S. walls of Norman date, though the vault which covers it and the window which lights it are of the 15th century ; the other Chapel to the E. of it called Bishop Roger's, entered from the N. Aisle of the Choir, shows on its S. and W. walls Norman external Arcades, and a blocked up Norman window. The Chapel itself will be dealt with later. The Choir of the Norman Church extended W. of the central tower, as was then usually the case, and to allow room for the stall-work the shafts of the E. and W. tower arches were finished off above the line of the stalls, as may still be seen in the present Church.

The original Parish Church.	The part of the Nave which lay W. of the Norman Choir was used, until the building of Alhalowes, as the Parish Church and the fine Norman porch, which is of Bishop Roger's time, was no doubt a parochial porch, for it faces the town, not the monastic buildings ; the font, about which I shall have more to tell presently, stood where the present font stands.
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The Norman tower.	Let us now climb the tower in search of traces of the Norman Church ; the tower up to the floor of the Bell-chamber is Norman ; over the pier-arches which carry it, except on the eastern side, there is a passage in the thickness of the wall with an arcade of semi-circular arches resting on circular and octagonal shafts of 11 inches in diameter. When the tower was restored in 1884-5, these shafts on the N.W. and S. sides of the lantern, which had been concealed by the 15th century work, were again laid bare ; the space between the shafts had been built up to help to bear the weight of the 15th century addition to the Norman tower.
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Additions in the 13th century, the Lady Chapel.	Such then, so far as we can gather, was the Norman Church ; to it was added in the 13th century, the Lady Chapel. Neither this Chapel, nor that of our Lady
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of Bow, has been accessible from the Church, since they were converted into a dwelling house. The fine Early English arch, by which the Lady Chapel was entered from the Church, may still be seen in the E. Wall of the ambulatory; the centre of this arch is a little S. of that of the 15th century choir, and hence the corbels of the Perpendicular vaulting do not correspond in any way with the Early English arch; one of these corbels is actually constructed so as to hang as a pendant free of the arch altogether.

Bishop Roger's Chapel. Besides this Chapel there is another piece of 13th century work, situated on the N. side of the N. aisle of the choir and commonly called Bishop Roger's Chapel, though for what reason it would be difficult to say. It was formed by building two Early English walls to form the N. and E. sides and using the N. wall of North Choir Aisle as a S. wall, and the E. wall of the Wickham Chapel as a W. wall. The traces of Norman work in the older walls have already been mentioned; its E. wall is lighted by an Early English triplet window.

Changes made in the 14th century. The changes made in the Abbey Church itself in the 14th century were slight; it seems, however, that flowing windows were inserted in the Norman wall of the N. Aisle of the Nave, called the "Trinitie Aisle;" but these were soon blocked up by Abbot Frithe's Cloisters, and the Aisle thence got the name of the "Dark Aisle."

The Building of Alhalowes. Outside the Church, however, a great change took place, for towards the end of the 14th century the Church of All Saints or as it was usually called Alhalowes was built on to the W. end of the Abbey Church. The W. porch and W. tower

were pulled down to the floor-level of the new church, which was about two feet above the level of the Abbey Church floor ; hence it comes that the plinth of the E. wall of the porch was left just high enough for the new pavement to go over it. At the present day the ground level has been lowered so as to show this old plinth. The remains of Alhalowes consist of the lower part of the N. wall of its N. Aisle and of four responds built into the W. front of the Abbey Church ; these responds are of late Decorated or Early Perpendicular date, of a pattern not uncommon in this neighbourhood. The S. respond is the most perfect of the four, for it still keeps a portion of the springing of the arch. It is evident therefore that four similar and parallel arches sprang from the W. front of the Abbey Church. The long N. wall, already referred to, has a series of projections in its S. face, from which we learn that this Church had six bays. In the centre of each projection is a shaft, the Capital of which no doubt carried the roof-frame of the side Aisle and the recessed faces between the projections are the sill walls of the Aisle windows, arranged in the same way as are the recessed windows in the S. Aisle of the Nave and in both Aisles of the Choir of the Abbey Church itself. But it will be noticed that this N. wall at its E. end did not extend right up to the Abbey Church, but was met at the distance of one bay from it by the most northerly of the four arches, already described as springing from the W. front of the Abbey Church. It follows therefore that there was here a high arch leading into a space N. of Alhalowes and S. of the Guesten Hall, and that there was a corresponding arrangement at the E. end of the S. Aisle of Alhalowes. Alhalowes then was a Church with a centre and two side Aisles, and two Chapels projected, one from the N. and the other from the S. of its easternmost bay. The centre Aisle was 18ft. 2in. wide, the N. Aisle 14ft. 6in., and the S. Aisle 16ft. 10in. It is possible of course, that what I have called the S. Chapel may have been a porch. We have already described the two doorways which opened from the N. and S. Aisles of the Abbey Church Nave ; whether there was also a doorway in the W. front of

the Abbey Church we cannot tell. If there was, it was not the doorway which is there now ; this was inserted in 1543, according to the Parish Account for 1543-4. But whether there was or not, we may be quite certain that the altar of Alhalowes stood not against the W. wall of the Abbey Church but at the E. end of the easternmost bay but one of Alhalowes. Thus between Alhalowes' altar and the Abbey Church W. wall there would be one whole bay left vacant as an ambulatory and vestibule to both Churches ; behind Alhalowes' altar would be a reredos and the general arrangement would resemble that of the Abbey Church, as we see it at the present day. The roof of this easternmost bay of Alhalowes did not reach as high as that of the rest of the Church ; for over this vestibule there would be no clerestory ; but over the rest of the central Aisle there would be a clerestory, as is evident from the springing stone of a flying buttress in the S. gable of the Guesten Hall. This flying buttress would rise up to support the clerestory, and if there were a series of flying buttresses extending from the Aisle walls to the clerestory from E. to W., the exterior view of Alhalowes must have been very fine. From the old Parish Accounts we learn that Alhalowes Church had a Tower with a peal of bells of its own. The general view therefore of the two Churches from a distance would not be unlike that of Wimborne on a larger scale, *i.e.*, a Church with a central and a western tower.

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#### CHAPTER IV.

#### THE GREAT RESTORATION OF THE 15TH CENTURY.

Abbot Bradford. We must now tell of the great restoration of the Abbey Church in the 15th century. This work was begun under Abbot John Brunyng, who ruled the Abbey from 1415 to 1436 ; but as the beginning

must have been made at the very end of his time when he was an old man, it is fair to conclude, that the movement to restore the Church was due not so much to the Abbot as to some of the younger brethren of the monastery. We shall scarcely be far wrong, if we hold that, though the work was begun under Abbot John Brunyng, the moving spirit was the man who in 1436 succeeded him, Abbott William Bradford.

The great quarrel between the Monks and the Townsfolk. In order fully to tell the story of Restoration I must explain the relations, which for some years had existed between the Monks and the townspeople of Sherborne. It appears that in the old days, as the town of Sherborne gathered round the Abbey, the monks had allowed the townsfolk to use the lower part of the Nave of the Abbey Church as a parish Church. Thus there had grown up a condition of things, similar to that which till quite lately existed in Carlisle Cathedral; the Abbey Church of Sherborne became a divided Church, part was Conventual part parochial. But, as time went on, this arrangement ceased to please one or other or both parties, and the consequence was that Alhalowes was built at the W. end of the Abbey Church for the use of the parishioners. After this addition was made, the large Norman Doorway at the W. end of the S. Aisle of the Nave was narrowed by the insertion of a smaller doorway. Now Alhalowes had not the *status* of a parish Church; technically the parish Church was till the lower part of the Abbey Church Nave, and here it was still necessary for all Sherborne children to be baptised in the font, which originally stood where the present font stands. It appears that the parishioners, in order to get to the font, had to enter Alhalowes Church and pass thence into the Abbey Church through the Norman doorway, which had been narrowed. This the parishioners regarded as a grievance. It appears also, that the monks had moved the font from the place where it now stands, to some other site, which the parishioners regarded as inconvenient.

The parishioners therefore having these two grievances in connection with the baptism of their children took the law into their own hands, and eight of them are specially accused before the Bishop of having set up a font in Alhalowes. The Monks of course regarded this new font as savouring of a usurpation of their Rectorial rights, and they complained too of another grievance, to wit, that the parish bells rang to matins at far too early an hour, and disturbed the morning slumbers of the monastery. Affairs then were in a critical condition, when Abbot Brunyng began to restore his Church. The work of restoration was begun by pulling down the Norman Choir together with the Choir Aisles, except those scraps of Norman work on the N., which still stand. A new Choir was being set up of magnificent design, and an upper story was being added to the Central Tower, when Abbot John Brunyng died in 1436 and Abbot Bradford succeeded. In this very year the great quarrel between the monks and the townsfolk came to a head; the monks appealed to the Bishop, Robert Neville (afterwards of Durham), who came to Sherborne and held an inquiry in the Abbot's Hall on the 12th November, 1436; he examined one hundred or more of the parishioners, many of whom had not approved of the high-handed course taken about the font. After a thorough investigation the Bishop, by the advice of his counsel learned in the law, gave his decision from his Manor of Remmesbury on the 8th Jan., 1437. Of course he used the date 1436, and Hutchins following him forgot, that in the 15th century the ecclesiastical year did not begin till the 25th March, and that in consequence the real date, both of this document and of the great fire which follows, is 1437. The decision was to this effect :

(a.) The said font (*i.e.*, the font in Alhalowes), which with daring rashness has been newly set up, is to be utterly destroyed and removed and carried out of the Church by those who caused it to be made. This removal of the font is to be carried



out forthwith under the Bishop's own inspection—*sub visu nostro incontinenti facta fuerit cum effectu*. The *future perfect* here is admirable, and I regret to mention that Professor Willis in his excellent account of Sherborne Abbey mis-translates it.

(b.) The ringing of the bells to matins for the parishioners throughout the year shall be made after the sixth hour has been struck by the *clocka* or *horologium* of the monastery and not before, except on the solemn feasts, viz., All Saints, Christmas, Epiphany and Easter.

(c.) The baptismal font of the Abbey Church shall be replaced in its old and accustomed position, and all infants born or to be born in Sherborne shall as of old be baptised therein.

(d.) The intermediate door and entrance, for the procession of the parishioners to the font, shall be enlarged and arched so as to give a more ample space and bring it to its original form.

(e.) The manner of the procession and other ceremonies about the font are to be observed in the old and wonted way.

(f.) There shall be made at the expense of the monastery a partition in the nave of the monastic Church close to the Choir of the monks, so that there shall be a distinct separation between the monks and the parishioners.

(g.) The replacing of the font and enlarging of the door must be effectually completed before Christmas day next.

This admirable judgement was not received by the disputants with the respect which it deserved, and delays and evasions on both sides brought about a violent termination of the dispute. Let us tell the story in Leland's own words: The monks induced "one Walter Gallor a stoute Bocher dwelling yn

“ Sherborne ” to enter Alhalowes, where “ he defacid clene the  
 “ Fontstone ; the townsmen aided by an Erle of Huntindune  
 “ lying in those Quarters ” rose in “ playne sedition . . .  
 “ a Preste of Alhalowes shot a shaft with fier into the Toppe  
 “ of that Part of S. Marye Chirch, that divided the Est Part  
 “ that the Monks usid from (that) the Townes-men usid ; and  
 “ this Partition chauncing at that Tyme to be thakked yn the  
 “ Rofe was sette a fier and consequently al the hole Chirch,  
 “ the Lede and Belles meltid, was defacid.”

The effect of                      Before this riot and burning, the parish-  
 the fire.                              ioners, as appears from Bishop Neville's  
    ordinance quoted above, attended the  
 ordinary services of the Church in the *Chapel* of Alhalowes,  
 but were compelled to have their children baptised in the nave  
 of the Abbey Church, which was technically their parish  
*Church* ; and it is quite possible that the ill feeling between the  
 town and the monks was due to the fact that the townfolk  
 were for most purposes banished from their ancient parish  
 Church in the nave of S. Mary, when Alhalowes was built.  
 After the fire, which scorched the new building of the Abbey  
 Choir and Tower, and no doubt burnt the scaffolding, the  
 monks were induced to agree to the legal transformation of  
 Alhalowes *Chapel* into the parish *Church*, in order to get rid  
 altogether of the parishioners ; as Leland says “ After this  
 “ time Alhalowes Chirch and not S. Maryes was usid for the  
 “ Paroch Chirch.” The monks never removed the smaller  
 doorway, by which the old Norman entrance was narrowed ;  
 there it stands to this day, a monument of that stormy time,  
 and connected with it there is still a curious tale to tell.  
 Among the eight parishioners, who “ casting behind them the  
 fear of God ” set up the obnoxious font in Alhalowes Church,  
 there was a certain Richard Vowell ; and anyone who examines  
 the narrowed doorway, will notice that the wall which now  
 blocks it up is wholly occupied by a large monumental tablet  
 to the memory of Benjamin Vowell and his three wives, who

died in 1783 ; thus, as professor Willis neatly showed, the doorway, which in the 15th century Richard Vowell felt to be too narrow, Benjamin Vowell "blocked up altogether." The 'Partition' which was thatched, must have been the tower, which was being raised and was covered with a temporary roof of thatch to keep out the rain ; no doubt also the new Choir which was already built as high as the springing-stones of the vault was also thatched for the same purpose. The walls of the Choir are to this day reddened by the fire, and before the E. wall of the tower was restored in 1884-5 the effects of the flames were perfectly visible there too and indeed are so still. The fire did not extend so far East as the Lady Chapel, nor did it seriously effect the Transepts or the Nave. Many people think that the fire was the cause of the Restoration of the 15th century ; but this is a mistake, the fire is an incident in the restoration. That the Nave was not much damaged appears clear from a License granted to the Abbot and Monastery of Sherborne to acquire lands in Mortmain to the value of £10 a year on account of the fire. The License is dated 1446, and it declares that "a sudden fire had lately consumed and devastated the choir and tower of the monastery of Sherborne together with the bells hanging therein and other Buildings of the Abbott and Convent." Had the nave been seriously damaged, the fact would certainly have been recited in the License.

<p>Abbot Bradford completes the Restoration of the Choir.</p>	<p>Abbot Bradford at once set to work to repair the damage done by the fire ; he prosecuted the townfolk, and they were compelled to contribute towards making the damage good ; he left the reddened stones still to tell the tale of the fire, and it is currently held that he caused some of the bosses of the Choir or Choir Aisles vault to be carved into the figure of a fiery shaft, but, though I have examined with a glass every boss again and again, I have never been able to find such an</p>
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emblem. The Choir of Sherborne may be held to be the most perfect piece of Perpendicular work in existence ; at any rate the vault has no rival, except that of the Nave, from which it differs in a few points. But the Choir is one harmonious design and the Nave is not ; the vertical lines of the Choir give to it a soaring effect, which is most delightful, the shafts and panelling rush upwards from the floor to the vault, and here the conoids or fans take the shafts and distribute them into ribs still rushing upward, but spaced out and made more prominent by the panelling of the fans. The arcade arches are recessed to the plane of the mullions of the clerestory windows, and these mullions run down through what in an earlier design would have been the triforium stage, forming below each window a series of panels. The transverse ribs of the vault have no perceptible point to their arch : all the ribs of the fans are continued through the horizontal containing-ribs up to the ridges of the principal and side vaults or to the lozenge panels, and thus in each vaulting compartment we have a marked domical effect, in which the lozenge, formed in each case by the curves of the horizontal bounding ribs of the four fans, shares. The outward thrust of the Choir vault is counteracted by very fine flying buttresses with heavy pinnacles. It was Bradford's plan to make the new vault run through the whole length of the Church from E. to W. without a break, as is the case with the 14th century vault of Exeter Cathedral. With a view to this he cut away the E. Norman Arch that carried the tower and built a loftier panelled arch in its place, fitting it into his new vault. This was rather a bold stroke, for the Norman tower piers were already out of the perpendicular ; to help therefore to counteract the thrust of the greater weight of tower and vault on these piers, a "sort of flying buttress," as Mr. R. H. Carpenter calls it, was inserted in the E. wall of the S. Transept, which is visible from the outside of the Church. It was not considered safe apparently to vault the S. transept, nor to put any windows in its E. and W.

walls. The N. Transept was stronger than that on the S. owing to the support afforded by the Dormitory. At this time too the Wickham Chapel received its fan-vault and the Perpendicular window was inserted in its N. wall; the N. Aisle, the Ambulatory, and the S. Aisle of the Choir were re-built and vaulted in a style similar to the Choir but of somewhat different design, and a reredos of elaborately carved stone was placed where the present one stands; painted and gilded fragments of it were found at the time of the restoration of the Choir in the present century. Bradford also appears to have built S. Catherine's Chapel, later called the Leweston Chapel, and vaulted it in the style of the Choir Aisles;—so far as I can judge, this is the only piece of work which Bradford did W. of the Transepts. He provided for the lengthening of the Choir Aisles eastwards, but we learn from Leland, that it was Abbot Ramsam, the restorer of the Nave, who built the Chapel of our Lady of Bow, and we have no means of judging who built the other 15th century Chapel at the E. end of the Church.

Abbot Ramsam restores the Nave.	Abbot Bradford died in 1459, leaving the Restoration of the Nave to his successors. His immediate successor
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Abbot John Saunder does not appear to have done much; possibly the funds of the Monastery had been somewhat exhausted by Abbot Bradford's work; but on Saunder's death another great builder took the work in hand, Peter Ramsam who was Abbot from 1474 to 1504. He is the restorer of the Nave; he pulled down the old Norman clerestory and triforium, but left the pier-arcade standing; he recessed the interior sill walls of the S. Aisle to receive the Perpendicular windows which he inserted; he vaulted both the N. and S. Aisle with a pretty lierne vault, each bay of which is markedly domical; he built the Chapel of our Lady of Bow, and it was he too most probably who built S. Sepulchre Chapel on the E. of the S. Transept; for the vault here is a

lierne vault of the same sort as that of the Nave Aisles. He cased the Norman piers in panel work, forming each pier into an irregular octagon, and carrying the panels round the pier-arches. The old irregular spacing of the Norman arcade required that the new arches should be more or less pointed according to the varying width between pier and pier. In building the new clerestory he disregarded altogether the irregular positions of the piers below, and spaced out equally the five bays of it. It may be asked why he did not pull down entirely the old Norman piers and build the Nave of one harmonious design, as Bradford had built the Choir. Probably he could not afford to do so. The result is, that the effect of the Nave on a spectator is quite different from that of the Choir; verticality is the dominant idea of the latter; in the Nave on the contrary we have a distinct feeling of there being two stories: the design is divided horizontally by a sharply marked string-moulding with pier arches below and large clerestory windows above. The windows are separated from each other by shafts descending from the spring of the vault and resting on angel corbels placed immediately above the horizontal string-moulding. Since the clerestory bays are of equal width, while the intervals between the piers below are unequal, it follows that the angel corbels rarely stand over the middle of the spandrel walls of the pier arches; but these spandrels are left bare of all ornament, and hence, as there are no architectural lines to connect the upper story with the lower, nine people out of ten fail to notice the irregularities. The vault of the Nave is as good a piece of work as that of the Choir; its transverse arches are more pointed, a detail which is to be commended, and it requires no flying buttresses nor any abutment beyond the thickness of the clerestory walls from which it springs, and yet, as Mr. Carpenter says, "it is as perfect as the day when it was erected." The conoids in all the fan vaults of the Church are polygonal not semi-circular. In all the vaults the bosses are good; for the most

part they are compositions of flowers and foliage ; but in the Nave there are several other designs such as the initials of Henry VII. and Elizabeth of York joined by a true lover's knot, a Tudor rose, a portcullis, a dragon, Christ's wounds, the *rebus* of Abbot Ramsam and others. On three bosses in the Choir the coat of the family of Stafford occurs ; or, in a border engrailed sa. a chevron gu. ; this coat occurs in Milton Abbey. The treatment of what in an earlier design would have been the *triforium* is the same in the Nave as in the Choir, *i.e.* the stage is a pannelled continuation of the window-mullions. The bays of the clerestory of the Nave are narrower than those of the Choir, the windows therefore of the Nave are of five lights, while those of the Choir are of six. Abbot Ramsam I think raised the level of the old Saxon doorway at the W. end of the N. Aisle of the Nave. He removed too the Norman gable of the great S. Porch and carried the Perpendicular Parapet of the S. Aisle of the Nave right round it. In 1850, when Mr. R. H. Carpenter restored this porch, he removed the Perpendicular parapet and finished the upper part of the porch with a Norman design of his own : this was not conservative restoration. The great Perpendicular window of the W. Front is Ramsam's work, and at first sight it is difficult to see how the roof of Alhalowes Ambulatory abutted on it. But this will be easily understood, when we find that, till Mr. Carpenter restored the Nave, the two lower tiers of panels in the lights of this window were blank panels ; this is evident even now from the traces of the depressed gable of the Ambulatory visible on the W. front of the Abbey Church.

I add here a list of the Abbots of Sherborne from 1122 to the dissolution of the Monastery.

#### ABBOTS OF SHERBORNE.

Date.	Name.
1122	Thurstan (witnessed a Charter of Henry I. to the Church of Exeter, 1123)

Date.	Name.
1142	Peter
1163	Clement (mentioned in Henry II. Itinerary. Part of his tomb is still in the Abbey Church)
1163 x 1189	{ E. Initials of the names of two Abbots of Sherborne occurring in two charters undated of Henry II G. of Henry II
1189	William of Stoke
1217	Philip (witnessed the third great charter of Henry III. at Westminster on the 11th February, 1225; Dorset Records, ii. 27)
1228	William of Tewkesbury
1228	Henry (witnessed a charter of Richard Poore, Bishop of Salisbury, conferring certain privileges on the inhabitants of the liberty of Newland, Sherborne. See also Dorset Records, ii. 60)
1246	Laurence of Bradford (Dorset Records ii. 84-87.) I think the tomb in the S. Aisle of the Choir is that of Abbot Laurence of Bradford, or that of his successor.
1261	John of Saunde
1281	Robert (there was some flaw in his election.) I think the tomb in the N. Aisle of the Choir next Abbot Clements' is Abbot Roberts' for the figure has no Pastoral Staff.
1285	John of Stalbridge (Hutchin's was in doubt whether his name was John or Hugh; this doubt is now settled, for his personal seal was found in 1900 on which his name plainly appears as Johannes de Stapelbrigge.)
1310	John of Thornford



Date.	Name.
1316	Peter of Ramsbury (President or foreman of a Jury appointed by Edward II. to look to the dilapidations of Sherborne Castle on the Wednesday next after the feast of Bartholomew, 1316.)
1329	John of Compton
1342	John of Hinton
1349	John Frithe of Sherborne
1371	Edward Goude
1386	Robert Brunyng
1415	John Brunyng
1436	William Bradford
1459	John Saunder
1475	Peter Ramsam
1504	John Mere
1535	John Barnstable (he surrendered the Monastery into the hands of Henry VIII. on the 18th March, 1539; he became Rector of Stalbridge, one of the livings which had belonged to the Abbey, where he died in 1560.)

The following is the list of those monks who signed the deed of surrender with the amount of their annual pensions: John Barnstaple, Abbot, £100; John Dunster, Prior, £12; Roger Percy, old and infirm, £6 13s. 4d.; John Hartt, Prior of Horton (a cell of the Abbey), £8; John Paynter, Prior of Kidwelly (a cell of the Abbey), £8; Thomas Capel, sub-prior, £7; John Style, £7; John Bishop, £6 13s. 4d.; William Vowell, £6 13s. 4d.; Thomas Elliot *alias* London, £6 13s. 4d.; Gilbert Saunder, £6 13s. 4d.; John King, £6 13s. 4d.; William Crode, £6 13s. 4d.; John Clarke, £6; Robert Pitman, £6; Augustine Greene, £6; Bartholomew Starre, £6.

The Abbots of Sherborne received particular writs of summons to the following Parliaments : 23, 27 Edward I. and 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 Edward II.

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## CHAPTER V.

### THE WINDOW TRACERY. THE HERALDRY. THE BELLS. THE MONUMENTS.

Window Tracery. The general design of the Window Tracery is simple and uniform ; with the exception of the four flowing windows in the N. Aisle of the Nave and the E. Window of Bishop Roger's Chapel, the tracery of all is Perpendicular, and gives us excellent specimens of that class of window, which is specially characteristic of 15th century work in the counties of Dorset, Somerset, and Gloucester. The idea of every window in Sherborne Abbey, except those of the Choir Aisles and of the N. Aisle of the Nave, is that of a triplet ; the Choir Aisle windows on the other hand suggest a doublet, while those of the N. Aisle of the Nave are of four lights. In the case of the great E., W., and S. windows and those of the clerestory of the Choir Nave and N. Transept, the principle of subordination is so much applied, that there are no less than three different planes of tracery, and in all these cases the plane projecting furthest from the plane of the glazing consists only of the two principal mullions, which run right through from top to bottom, dividing each window into three parts. The lights of the great W. window are divided by two transomes into three tiers of panels ; the lights of the great E. window (which are one third shorter) are divided by one transome ; the lights of the great S. window have one transome, those of the clerestory windows of the Choir and Nave one

transomes, those of the clerestory of the N. Transept two transomes. The great E. and W. windows are of nine lights each, *i.e.* three *fenestellae* of three lights each; the great S. window is of eight lights, for the centre *fenestella* has only two. The clerestory windows of the Choir and N. Transept have three *fenestellae* of two lights each; those of the Nave three *fenestellae*, two of two lights, but the centre *fenestella* of one light. All these window lights are on the second plane of tracery. The heads of these windows are all treated in a similar way, the tracery used being alternate perpendicular panels with straight-sided arches, on the 2nd plane of tracery; but these panels themselves are divided into smaller alternate panels on a 3rd plane of tracery; so that at first sight and without observing the tracery planes one might think that, instead of having alternate panels within alternate panels, we had super-mullion tracery simply, *i.e.* tiers of batement lights half the width of the window lights. The windows of the Choir Aisles are, as I said, exceptions to the triplet rule; their arches are very flat pointed and almost straight-sided—they would be described in the *Glossary* as much surbased segmental pointed. The principal mullion divides each window into two *fenestellae*; but it does not pass right up from the sill to the point of the arch, it bifurcates so as to form a subarcuated window. The window lights are on the 2nd plane of tracery, four in number, two in each *fenestella*, and the heads treated in a similar way to those of the windows already described. The windows of the S. Aisle of the Nave and of S. Katharine's and S. Sepulchre's Chapels are triplets without transomes of only two planes of tracery; the principal plane comprises the window lights and the large alternate panels of the window heads; these large panels are sub-divided by smaller alternate panels on a 2nd plane of tracery. The windows of the N. Aisle of the Nave are of 14th century design without transomes; in the principal plane of tracery are the window lights, four in number in each window, and each window-head is of the ordinary reticulated pattern,

the reticulations being of circular not of vesical derivation ; within each opening of the reticulation is placed on a lower plane a trefoil. The Early English triplet in Bishop Roger's Chapel needs little comment ; the divisions between the lights may be called real mullions rather than bits of wall, and they are much splayed inside.

The Stained  
glass.

As to the stained glass it must be confessed at once, that none of the old glass remains ; the great west window by

Hardman is not very attractive, the panels of the lights are filled with figures of Kings, Prophets, and Patriarchs of the Old Testament, and the head of the window shows little ingenuity and may be called commonplace. The great S. window, also by Hardman, is much more pleasing ; it represents the *Te Deum*, and was designed by the late A. W. Pugin. The great E. window and clerestory windows of the Choir are by Messrs Clayton and Bell, and they are distinctly good ; the 15th century feeling has been well caught and the glass is worthy of the splendid structure in which it is placed. The clerestory windows, it is a comfort to think, recognise that Sherborne has a history, for here are represented many of its Bishops and Abbots. But there is nothing in the Abbey Church to remind us of King Ine or King Alfred (except the brass which marks his brothers' graves) or of S. Birinus, or of the place of Sherborne in history, or of the part played by the men of Dorset in the fierce struggle against the Danes ; there is nothing to tell of Engelbert or Raleigh, and very little to remind us of that great Earl of Bristol, the first of the Sherborne Digbys, who, but for the tricks of Buckingham, might have been the foremost man of his time in England. To balance these omissions, however, there is one Bishop commemorated, who never existed. The stained glass of the N. Aisle of the Nave is by Hardman, that in the window in the S. Aisle is by Messrs. Clayton and Bell. The other windows of the Church

are for the most part glazed with quarries of tinted glass, which looks very satisfactory.

The Shiels and *rebuses* in the Nave. Those who visit the Abbey Church are usually anxious to know what the devices are on the shields of the Angel Corbels and on those at the *apices* of the arches of the Nave arcade. Let us therefore take first the corbel shields on the S. side of the Nave from the E. ; we have ;

1st.—The arms of Sherborne Abbey : gu. a cross arg. on the dexter side transpiercing the dexter arm of the cross a pastoral staff in pale or.

It has often been disputed whether the staff is over the cross or the cross over the staff, but in this case the staff pierces the cross from above.

2nd.—The arms of Cerne Abbey : az. between lilies arg. a cross of the last.

3rd.—The arms of Abbotsbury Abbey ; az. three pairs of keys addorsed and conjoined in the rings, wards in chief, two and one, or.

4th.—The *rebus* of Thomas Langton (Bishop of S. David's, 1483, of Sarum 1485, of Winchester 1493). T.L. over a cockatrice (*anguis*) in a tun.

Next we take the corbel shields on the N. side beginning from the E.

1st.—The arms of the see of Canterbury impaling the family coat of Cardinal Morton, a Dorset man and sometime Rector of Bere Regis. For Canterbury : az. a crozier in pale arg. ensigned with a cross pattée or. surmounted by a pall of the second charged with five crosses pattée fitcheé, two and three, sable.

For Morton, quarterly 1st and 4th erm. erm. and gu. in the 2nd and 3rd quarters a goat's head erased arg. attired or.

2nd.—Arms about which there may be some dispute. As blazoned here they are Sa. on a cross or. five roses of the first. But we must not forget that when the Nave was restored the colouring of these shields was not entrusted to men who knew anything of heraldry ; of this I have abundant proof. It therefore seems clear that the blazon should have been : Or on a cross quarterly az. and gu. five roses arg. This is the coat of Thomas Langton whose *rebus* has already been described. The see of S. David's to which these arms are assigned by Hutchins is : Sa. on a cross or. five cinquefoils of the first. I suspect that whoever guided the workmen in colouring this shield mistook it for the shield of S. David's.

3rd.—The arms of the Hatton family : Az. a chevron between three garbs or. This occurs also at Milton Abbey.

4th.—Arms which apparently do not exist as blazoned here : Az. on a bend or. three escallops ppr. Here is probably another mistake of the sort described above ; it should be—Gu. on a bend arg. three escallops sable, which is the coat of Knoyle, a family long ago connected with Sherborne.

Let us now examine the shields at the *apices* of the arches in the Nave Arcade ; starting as before from the E. of the S. side we have :

1st.—The letter P with a pastoral staff enclosing a ram with a small scroll inscribed SAM. This is the *rebus* of Abbot P. Ramsam.

2nd.—A scroll with the syllable SAM inscribed ; this seems merely to emphasise the preceding *rebus*.

3rd.—The letter D with a pastoral staff enclosing an owl ; this I take to be the *rebus* of Bishop Oldham of Exeter.

The 4th and 5th are the same as 1st and 2nd.

Passing now to the N. side and beginning from the E. we have :

1st.—The *Rebus* of Peter Ramsam, already described.

2nd.—The *Rebus* of Thomas Langton, already described.

3rd.—The arms of Sherborne Abbey, already described.

4th.—The arms of Milton Abbey : Sa. three bread baskets arg.

5th.—The arms of Sherborne Abbey, already described.

In the angles at the W. end of the Church, on the S. side we have an enlarged version of Peter Ramsam's *rebus*, on the N. side a ram bearing a scroll inscribed : **Disce Pati. Vincit qui Patitvr.** On a boss in the Nave vault is the following curious coat : Sa between two bread baskets in chief and a 3rd and a W. in base ar. a cross flory or. This I feel sure is of the nature of a *rebus*, and if I might dare to guess, I should be inclined to say, that it commemorates Abbot William Bradford. (*i.e.* W. Breadfoured). It would not be much more absurd than Bishop Langton's or Bishop Oldham's.

The Bells.

The tower contains 10 bells, viz. a peal of eight, a *Sanctus* bell and a Fire bell.

The tenor bell was the gift of Cardinal Wolsey, who at one time was Rector of Limington in this neighbourhood. This bell is the smallest of the seven, which he brought to England from Tournai, of which see among others he was Bishop. It is called of course Great Tom and weighs nearly three tons ; it bears the following legend :

By Wolsey's gift I measure time for all,  
To mirth, to grief, to Church I serve to call.

It may be interesting to give the weights and sites of the other six bells, which were brought to England with it. Here they are :

1st.—Oxford, Christ Church, Mighty Tom,	7 tons 18cwt.
2nd.—Exeter, Great Peter,	5 tons 11cwt.
3rd.—S. Paul's, Tom Growler,	5 tons 2cwt.
4th.—Lincoln, Big Tom,	4 tons 14cwt.
5th.—Canterbury, Clock Bell,	3 tons 10cwt.
6th.—Gloucester, College Clock Bell,	3 tons 5cwt.
7th.—Sherborne, Great Tom,	2 tons 12cwt. 23lbs.

Our bell is said to be the largest rung in peal in England. The seventh bell in our peal is called the Lady Bell; the first and second bells were added to the peal in 1858 to commemorate the completion of the restoration of the Church; they bear the following legends:

We hang here to record  
That the Church was restored  
In the year of our Lord  
1858.

Lord let the folks below  
Resound with living song  
Thy praise as we do now  
With iron tongue.

On the Fire-bell is the legend:

Lord, quench this furious flame!  
Arise! run! help! put out the same.

The lip of this bell turns inward and its sound is unmistakable; the VI. Form of the School always turn out at a fire, whether the Form is 'in' or not.

The Monuments. Among the more remarkable graves in the Church should be noticed first the brass in the Ambulatory, which marks the spot where the West-Saxon Kings Æthelbald and Æthelberht were buried; in the N. Aisle of the Choir are two altar tombs of recent



construction, upon which have been laid two ancient recumbent figures; that which is nearer the E. is the figure of a monk, perhaps a Prior of the Convent; it may represent Abbot Robert (1281—1285), whose election was disputed, for the figure has no pastoral staff; the figure to the W. is that of Abbot Clement, who was elected in 1163; on the round-headed canopy which encircles his head is the legend:

Clemes. clemete. s. setiat. omipotentem.  
q. d. vivebat. dmus. hec. dnante vigebat.

Supplying the missing letters we get:

Clemens clementem sibi sentiat omnipotentem,  
quo, dum vivebat, domus haec dominante vigebat.

In the S. Aisle of the Choir is an altar tomb of recent construction, upon which has been laid a 13th century figure, probably that of Abbot Lawrence, 1246—1261.

In the Lewston or S. Katherine's Chapel is a Renaissance monument of workmanship which though rough is very characteristic of the period to which it belongs; beneath a canopy supported on six shafts are the recumbent figures of John Lewston Esquire, buried in 1585, and of Joan his wife buried in 1597. The figures are worth studying for their costumes. The arms on this monument are: on the S. side beginning at the head 1. (gu) three battleaxes heads to dexter, two and one (arg.) for Lewston. 2. Lewston impaling Culpepper: (arg) a bend engrailed (gu.) 3. Fitzjames: (az.) a dolphin naiant embossed (arg.) 4. Fitzjames impaling Trenchard: per pale, dexter paly of six (arg. and az.), sinister (sable). On the N. side beginning at the head 1. Lewston. 2. Lewston impaling Culpepper. 3. Quarterly, 1st and 4th Firzjames, 2nd (sable) billey (arg.) a cross **flory** (of the last) for Norris, 3rd (arg.) a cross engrailed (sable), in dexter chief an eagle displayed (gu.) for Draycott. 4. Fitzjames impaling

Trenchard. On the E. wall of the Chapel under the canopy the arms of Lewston, on the underside of the canopy itself the arms of Lewston at W. end of the monument 1. Lewston.  
2. Culpepper.

Against the W. wall of the S. Transept stands the huge monument of John, third and last Earl of Bristol; the Earl's figure is worth studying for the costume; the figures of his two wives, who stand on each side of him, are draped in a conventional way; the monument tells its own tale very completely, The arms here are the 1st on top of the monument. Az a fleur de lis arg, in chief a mullet or for difference, the coat of the 3rd Earl of Bristol. 2nd, on dexter side: Az a cheveron between three lion's heads erased or for Wyndham. 3rd, on sinister side: Arg a cheveron and two couple-closes gu, between three lions rampant sable, for Boorne. The oak, which forms the ceiling of this Transept, is said to have been brought from Ireland by this Earl of Bristol. On the S. Wall of the same Transept may be read the lines which Alexander Pope wrote "In Memory of Robert second son and Mary eldest daughter of William Lord Digby." Only two Head-masters of the School have, so far as is known, been buried in the Abbey, viz., the Rev. Richard Newman in 1641 and the Rev. George Gerard in 1721. To judge from Mr. Gerard's epitaph which may be read in Hutchings' *Dorset* (for since Hutchings' day it is no longer visible, being probably hidden by the new pavement, as so many other grave-stones are), to judge from Mr. Gerard's epitaph, he possessed a most unusual share of the accomplishments and virtues.

In the Wickham Chapel stands the monument of Sir John Horsey, the lay Impropietor of the Monastery at the dissolution; he died in 1546; here he lies in armour beneath his canopy and beside him his son, a second Sir John Horsey, who died in 1564. On two shields on the front of the pediment are

the letters I. H. twice carved, the initials of these two knights, and between them the dates 1546, 1564. Under the dates are the letters E. H. for Edith, the wife of the 2nd Knight. On the corners are horses' heads, the crest of the family. At the W. end of the monument are the initials I. H. twice over, for the 1st Sir John and his wife Joan; at the E. end are the initials I. H. and E.H. for the 2nd Sir John and his wife Edith. In front of the monument are, beginning from the W.: 1. Quarterly 1st and 4th (Az.) three horses' heads coupé at neck (or) bridled (gu) two and one, for Horsey. 2. Horsey impaling Maybank, Barry wavy of eight arg. and gu. a saltire or. 3. Horsey impaling Turges, Av. a chevron between three crosses croset fitchée within engrailed bordure (or.) 4. Horsey impaling Maudley, (arg.) on a chevron (az.) between three lozenges as many fleur de lis (or). 5. Horsey impaling two coats which are per fess; that in chief is, (arg.) a chevron between three roses (gu.) for Phelips; that in base is (or) on a chevron three eagles' heads erased (arg.) for Phillips of Dorset. This is a curious arrangement and we can only guess that originally five matrimonial alliances of the Horseys were meant to be shown, but that at the last moment a sixth was crowded into the space in this odd fashion. On the N. wall under the canopy in a lozenge: Quarterly 1st and 4th, Horsey; 2nd, Turges; 3rd, Maybank. Nearly all the monumental tablets have now been transferred to Bishop Roger's Chapel. Here is a hatchment of Henry Prince of Wales, for a short time owner of Sherborne Castle, also a hatchment: "Az. a fleur de lis arg." for Digby, impaling "Az. a chevron between three lions' heads erased or" for Wyndham. Crest on wreath above helmet of nobility rising out of an Earl's coronet "an ostrich arg. holding in beak a horseshoe or." Supporters, "two monkeys? sable gorged or." Motto "Nul Quun." This must be the hatchment of the third and last Earl of Bristol whose monument has been already dealt with. Wherever the colours and metals are placed in brackets, it must be understood that they are omitted

on the monuments. One inscription mentioned by Hutchins, which is now concealed by the pavement near the altar, is too neat to be forgotten: "Here lyeth the body of Mr. John Fisher, gent., who dyed January 23rd, Anno Dom. 1658. In mare "mortuum incidit piscator." In the presbytery in front of the altar rails are three marble slabs adorned with brasswork; that in the centre commemorates Edward Earl of Digby, a noble benefactor of the Church and School; that on the N. Beatrice Countess of Bristol, who died in 1658; she was a Walcote of Shropshire, who married first Sir John Dives, second Sir John Digby, afterwards created Earl of Bristol; that on the S. commemorates her second husband's faithful friend, Walsingham Gresley. The Earl of Bristol died and was buried in Paris, an exile, in 1653. Somewhere in the Abbey, probably in the N. Transept, is laid one of the "courtly poets," Sir Thomas Wyatt, the father of the famous rebel of the same name. He died at Sherborne on his way from Falmouth to London in 1541; he had been sent to Falmouth to receive and conduct to the King a certain Montmorency, the imperial ambassador. In 1542 the great Leland published a *Nenia* on his death, which begins:

Caesaris orator Maurentius ostia Falae  
 Fluminis intravit vela secunda ferens.  
 Est data ducendi legatum cura Viato,  
 Hispanis nullus notior Anglus erat.

This effusion reads like a copy of verses, which might have been found in a waste-paper basket of Sherborne School.

In the choir are ten of the 15th century *Miserere* stalls with their contemporary canopy work; to be appreciated they must be thoroughly examined; no description could do them justice. The Lectern is a fine piece of brass work, relieved by bronze; on a moulding below some panel-work is the legend: "Presented to the Abbey Church, Sherborne, by G. D. W. Digby, Esq., Christmas Day, 1869."

It only remains to give a brief account of the restoration work of the present century. In 1830 the tower, which was in a dangerous condition owing to the vibration of the bells, was strengthened in a somewhat unsightly way by E. T. Percy, according to a scheme devised in 1828 by Professor Wilkins, R.A. In 1848 Edward Earl of Digby and others subscribed for the restoration of the Nave, Nave Aisles, and Transepts; this work was carried out by R. C. Carpenter and finished in 1851. In 1856 G. D. W. Digby, Esq., at his own cost undertook the restoration of the Choir; the work was carried out by W. Slater, a pupil and partner of R. C. Carpenter. Mr. Digby also bore the cost of the stained glass in the Choir. In 1884 the tower was again dealt with: its E. and W. walls were re-built, its N. and S. walls were repaired and pinnacles were added according to the original design; this work was carried out by R. H. Carpenter and B. Ingelow. The bells were re-hung in such a way, that the vibration is borne by the stronger part of the tower, not by the weaker part, as it used to be.

To sum up, the Abbey Church of Sherborne is a Norman building entirely transformed as to Nave and Choir into a Perpendicular building: but the Tower and Transepts still retain certain strongly marked Norman characteristics, and we have here and there Early English and Decorated insertions and additions. The Perpendicular work is unusually fine, and the fan-vaulting absolutely unrivalled.

I add here an incomplete list of the Priests of Alhalowes and of the Vicars of Sherborne.

<i>Patron.</i>	<i>Priests of Alhalowes.</i>	<i>Dates and Notes.</i>
Abbot of Sherborne.	Roger Everard	1228. He witnessed a Charter of Bp. Richard Poore to the inhabitants of the Liberty of Newland, Sherborne, in 1228.

<i>Patron.</i>	<i>Priests of Alkalowes.</i>	<i>Dates and Notes.</i>
Abbot of Sherborne.	William Dalton	Before 1401 in which year he exchanged with his Successor.
„	John Campeden	1401.
„	Alexander Sparrowe	1419.
„	John Poskyn, M.A., Oxon.	1529 (cf Parish Accounts, 1529.)
<i>Vicars of S. Mary's.</i>		
The King.	John Chetmyll	1540.
The Queen.	George Holman, B.A.	1566. Under Master of the School d. 1580.
„	David Dee. B.A.	1580. Rector of S. Bartholomew-the-Great, London, 1587. Canon of S. Paul's, 1598.
„	Francis Scarlett	1585. d. 1632.
The King.	William Lyford, B.D.	1632. Fellow of Magdalen Coll., Oxford; appointed one of the Westminster Assembly of Divines. d. 1653.
—	Francis Bamfield, M.A.	1657. Fellow of Wadham Coll., Oxford; Rector of Rampisham, and a Cavalier 1640, Canon of Exeter 1641; deprived of the living of Sherborne for Non-conformity, 1662; died in Newgate, Feb. 16, 1684. Wood Ath: Oxon. iv. 126, says: "he was first a churchman, then a "presbyterian, afterwards "an anabaptist, and at "length almost a complete "jew and what not."

<i>Patron.</i>	<i>Vicars of S. Mary's.</i>	<i>Dates and Notes.</i>
The King.	Joseph Barker, M.A.	1663. Fellow of C.C.C., Oxford, 1646; a Cavalier, Canon of Wells, 1661; d. 1667; buried in Sherborne Abbey.
„	John Elford, B.A.	1667. Trin. Coll., Oxford.
„	John Henschman.	1682.
„	John Jolland, M.A.,	1692. Fellow of C.C.C. Camb. Rector of Bishops Caundle, 1689-1698; resigned Sherborne, 1693.
„	James Lacey, M.A.	1693. Merton Coll., Oxford; d. 1743.
„	John Loop, B.A.	1743. Exeter Coll., Oxford; d. 1749.
„	Henry Samson, M.A.	1749. D. 1773, aged 78.
„	Edward Cotes, B.C.L.	1773. Magdalen Hall, Oxford. Rector of Bishops Caundle and Vicar of Haydon, 1748-1780; d. 11th July, 1780.
„	Nathaniel Bristow, M.A.	1780. Emmanuel Coll., Camb. Headmaster of Sherborne School, 1776-1790; Rector of Bishops Caundle and Vicar of Haydon, 1780-1810; d. 10th August, 1810.
„	William Gorton, M.A.	1811. Balliol Col., Oxford. D 24th June, 1830.
„	John Parsons, M.A.	1830. Fellow of Worcester Coll., Oxford. Rector of Osborne, 1811-1854; d. 1st July, 1854.

<i>Patron.</i>	<i>Vicars of S. Mary's.</i>	<i>Dates and Notes.</i>
The Crown.	Edward Harston, M.A.	1854. Clare Coll., Camb. Resigned January, 1868.
„	William Hector Lyon, M.A.	1868. Trin. Coll., Camb. Rector of Osborne, 1854- 1867.

These are the dimensions of the Church :

	ft.	in.
Internal length from W. door to E. wall of Ambulatory	200	0
„ „ of Nave	85	6
„ „ of Tower and Choir	95	6
„ width of Nave and Aisles, and of Choir and Aisles	60	10
„ „ of Nave, and of Choir	25	10
Height of Tower	109	0
Width of Tower at top from N. to S.	32	3
„ „ „ „ E. to W.	29	4

These were the dimensions of the Alhalowes :

Internal length from W. to E.	92	0
„ width from N. to S.	55	0
The Lady Chapel was in internal length	48	0

Thus to a spectator from the outside, when the Abbey Church with its Lady Chapel on the E. and Alhalowes on the W. stood complete, there would appear a Church 350 feet long of varied and picturesque outline, Alhalowes with its Tower and flying buttresses, the Nave and Choir much as we see them to-day, the Lady Chapel with the lancet windows of its clerestory rising high above the Perpendicular of our Lady of Bow, and to crown all, above the crossing of Nave and Transepts, the Tower.



## CHAPTER VI.

OLD SHERBORNE AND THE DISSOLUTION  
OF THE MONASTERY.

Old Sherborne never won its way to self-government ; the Bishop and the Abbot kept too tight a hold on it. This seems the more surprising when we remember that Wells attained that dignity, but perhaps if the Abbot of Glastonbury had been a somewhat nearer neighbour to Wells, its history might have been more akin to that of Sherborne.

Its size and appearance. As Hutchins points out, " In Leland's and Camden's time " *i.e.* in the reigns of Henry viii. and Elizabeth " it was the most frequented town in the county." Leland thus describes it : " The towne of Sherburne stondith partely on the brow of " an hille partely in a botom. I esteme it to lak litle of a two " miles in cumpace. It stondith partely by making of clothe, " but most by al maner of crafts : and for a dry town or other " saving Pole that is a little thing, I take it to be the best town " at this present tyme in Dorsetshire." And Hearne adds in a note on this passage : " The compass of Sherborne is nere four " miles. The town is above a mile long each way." From this we see that the size and shape of the town were very much what they are now, though in the time of Camden it had probably more inhabitants than at present ; for in those days more people lived within the same space, and Busching gives its inhabitants a total of 10,000. It would not be difficult to call up a picture of its appearance ; there would be many timber fronted houses such as that at the corner of Abbey Road and Cheap Street, and the house next the old Savings Bank with gables facing the street, and the Sun Inn, others like the old house at the W. end of Long Street on the N. side, archways like that leading into the George Yard, doorways like that in a house in Cheap Street

near the Post Office. At the bottom and top of Cheap Street and in Newland were three tall crosses more or less resembling, I suppose, that which still stands in the village of Stalbridge.

The space where the large draper's shop now stands at the corner of Half Moon Street and South Street was open, and together with the Parade was called the Shambles, and here and along what is now South Street, but then called Lodbourne Lane, a serious skirmish took place between the Roundheads and the Townsfolk in the Civil War. The shops of the town were gathered about the Shambles and the Churchyard: in various parts of the town and on its outskirts were a number of Chapels, the sites of which can be fairly identified. In Combe stood a Chapel dedicated to a Saint bearing according to Leland the remarkable name of Emmerentiana; connected with the Church of S. Mary Magdalen in Castleton were the Chapels of S. Michael and S. Probus; on the Green stood and still stands in a distorted condition the Chapel of S. Thomas à Becket; by the river near the Bridewell (by a happy change now called Bidewell) stood the Chapel of S. Andrew; according to Leland there was a Chapel "in S. Marye Chirchyard on the South Syde: one Dogget a canon of Saresbyre made it of late dayes." Could this be a Chapel attached to the Church House? And lastly there was the Chapel of the Almshouse S.S. John's Chapel, which we still have. Of any of the others, except S. Emmerentiana (the relics of which may still be seen in a barn in Combe), and S. Thomas à Becket, it would be very difficult to find a trace. But we have in their place the Methodist Chapel in Cheap Street, the Congregational Chapel in Long Street, the Roman Catholic Chapel in Westbury, besides other ecclesiastical structures to which I need not allude.

Still Sherborne, with its winding streets, narrowing and widening at intervals, is a gem among old-world towns; and, though from time to time we hear of sensational proposals such

as to erect a lighthouse on the top of the Conduit and to run a pavement through it, yet on the whole the present 'city fathers' have been fairly merciful. Perhaps had the town obtained self-government earlier, there would have been fewer good things left; and generations, yet to be, will not regret that the building of S.S. Johns' Hall and the restoration of the house which occupies part of the shell of the old Abbey Gatehouse fell into such good hands; the same remark applies to the old timber front of the Sun Inn.

The Fairs and Markets. I called attention some time back to the fact that after 1122 we had two manors to deal with in Sherborne, that of the Bishop, and that of the Abbot and Convent taken out of the former. The Bishop, however, was still Lord of the town, and of its Fairs and Markets, and, except within the Abbot's Fee, supreme. The Governors of Sherborne School still possess an old deed, which came to them as Controllers of the Fairs and Markets. From 1560 to 1748 the Governors of the School rented the Fairs as well as the Market Place of Sherborne from the Lord of Sherborne great manor for an annual payment; in return for this they took the rent of the Shambles and Standings in the Market and the tolls of the Fairs. They had to keep the Shambles and Standings in repair, and they had also to clean the streets and keep the pavements in good order. The fine for renewing the lease was £20. The three annual fairs of Sherborne are relics of the Middle Ages; the first is held or should be held on the 29th December, S. Thomas à Becket's day, the second on S. Swithun's day, the third on the Monday after old Michaelmas day. In the old accounts these three fairs are usually called 'the fair on the Grene,' 'Castletoun Fair,' and 'S. Michell's Fair.' The last-named is now called 'Pack Monday Fair'; I do not pretend to give an explanation of the mysterious rites which usher in this festival of Sherborne. In the old days the great bell of the Abbey used to ring at 4 a.m. and horns were blown and drums or resonant vessels of some

sort beat; there may be some connection between this noise and the *cultus* of S. Michael, but it is not obvious. On the other hand the word *pack* is said to refer to the packing up of their tools by the workmen who completed the restoration of the Nave of the Abbey Church for Abbot Ramsam and departed from Sherborne on that famous Monday. If this be so, I fear those workmen must have been unpopular and were drummed out. Probably the word *pack* suggested the legend; for we often find that a story is invented to explain a term, the real meaning of which has been forgotten. So-called *pack* fairs are held in other places besides Sherborne.

The Rents of the Fair on the Green and of Pack Monday Fair still go to the Lord of Sherborne, that of S. Swithun's to the Vicar.

Local Option long ago.	Before I leave this subject I must say something more of the old Deed to which I referred as being in the possession of the Governors of the School; it concerns the liquor traffic in the town and actually gives to the inhabitants <i>Local option</i> of a sort. The Deed is "an indenture made the xxii. day of July " In the xxi. yere of the Reigne of our Sov'aigne Lorde Kynge " Henry the VIIIth Bytwene the most Reverent ( <i>sic</i> ) ffather in "god Laurence of the holy Churche of Rome Cardynall and " Bysshop of Sarum of the one party And Walter Albon and " John Haywood Constables of Shyrbourne " and 24 townsmen of Sherborne of the other party. The " most Reverent ffather in god Laurence " is of course Cardinal Campeggio, who, from the King's point of view, bungled the Divorce question so stupidly; of the 24 townsmen (who, when we come to count the names, are 25, probably on the principal of a bakers' dozen) six are Drapers, five Mercers, two Yeomen, two Bakers, two Cordwainers, two Husbandmen, one Innkeeper, one Clothmaker, one Parchmentmaker, one Tanner, one Cutler, and one Smith. This is evidently meant to be a thoroughly popular body
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representing the "honest Inhabytaunts of the sayd Towne," but it is nominated by the officers of the Bishop. The Deed then recites some very cogent reasons for the step now taken: (a) the town has suffered at times through "Derthe of corne and malte and Scarcenes of Ale through the which dyvers and "many in tyme past have p'ysshed and fanted for lack of the "same." This of course means that when there was a bad harvest the Brewers had made a 'corner' in Ale and so ran up the price that the "poor man was etc." as in Conservative Election placards of our own days; (b) the town has also suffered "from vyces Idelnes and unlawfull games by reson of "so grete and inordynat number of Alehouses in tyme of plenti- "fulness by Journeymen day labourers and other poor "Artyfycers there and thyder Resortyng and usyng there "rytous expenses and unlawfull games to the grete trouble "and inquyetyng of the inhabitaunts next therto adjoynyng "And to the grete Impouerysshynge and decay of the Towne." Perhaps before going any further I ought to make it clear that the *Local Option* is not an option as to whether liquor is to be sold at all or not. In the simple days of which I am now writing, the idea of allowing no liquor to be sold would have been regarded as altogether "outside the sphere of practical politics" as savouring even of insanity. What the constables and the 24 select townsmen had to do was this: To "chose provyde elect name and appoynt" four Brewers or more if need be—though his Lordship of Sarum suggests four as enough; and to see that the Ale was sold by measure as follows: Three wine pints of it go to the Quart, three quarts to the Potell, six quarts to the Gallon, and the best Ale was to be sold at the rate of 12 gallons for 18 pence; that of "lesser valure" at the rate of 12 gallons for 12 pence, each gallon be it remembered consisting of six quarts; to test and prove all the measures; to bring before the Hundred Court any of the four Brewers who did not do "his true duty and diligence in every thyng concernyng hys facultie occupacon and mystery of Brewyng" and

have him "expulsed" and a better man appointed in his place.

No other man, but the four, is to brew in Sherborne "Except suche only as shall brewe for Church Ales and other consydera-  
tions had and to be thought mete and expedient by the sayd  
officers constables and xxiiii. p'sons aforementioned." No Ale is to be sold to the Retail dealers called "huksters tiplers and taverners," till the whole town (*i.e.* private consumers) is "sufficiently s'ved and satisfied." The Retail dealers are to be "such p'sons as the sayd two constables and the xxiii. p'sons or the more pt of them wt thassent of the officers of the said Court shall thynk mete and necessary And they so admytted to make their ffynes in the sayd Court for the sayd license so to use." And if these Retail dealers so licensed do not sell the Ale according to this ordinance, they or any of them shall have his license cancelled. The four Brewers are to pay for their privilege to the Bishop 70 shillings a year, and to the Abbot and Convent of Sherborne 10 shillings a year, "in Recumpense of a certayne custume there called Crokepeny." The Brewers are not to deliver out any Ale to any one, until the "Vent bedell or Ale taster of the Tythyng where the said Brewhouses be and one wt hym have tasted their Ale and admytted the same to be good and holsom for mannys body," and the Ale taster is to take "for his payne and labour" every time he inspects a Brew one potell. If a Brewer sells Ale to anyone, whether private consumer or retail dealer, before it has been tested or passed, he is to be fined in the Hundred Court XLd. for each offence.

No man is to build within the manor or town of Sherborne any Malt mill, whereby the Corn mills within the same manor "should be hyndered," but every Inhabitant is to resort to the said Corn Mills "as of old tyme hath been used and accustomed" and we know from other sources that the Bishop and the Abbot owned the said Corn Mills. No Brewer may "set out any Ale

Stake or signe" to the "hurting of his huksters," nor may he sell any ale within his own house "until suche tyme that the hole towne and the sayd huksters be fully satisfied"—this of course is to prevent a 'corner' in Ale; if he does so, he is to be presented by the constables and the 24 in the Hundred Court and to 'forfet Xs.'; and if any man not a licensed Brewer attempts to brew and sell Ale he is to 'forfet' in the same Court XXs. "And if it so happen that a licensed Brewer deliver out "any Ale to any hukstar or typler or to any p'son or p'sons "within this sayd Towne not sufficient good ne holesom for "mannys body According to the sayd use and custume, That "then the sayd Brewer shall fet home the sayd Ale agayne for "beyng Insufficient upon warnyng to hym gevyn within the "space of II dayes and II nyghts next after the delyv'y of "the same, And dyscharge that p'son or p'sons havyng the "same for the quantyty so beyng insufficient."

To this deed or indenture is sewn the Report of a case tried in the Hundred Court of Sherborne between John Voysye petitioner and William Lawes and others of the towne of Sherborne defendants, on the following 16th October; William Lawes was one of the 24. John Voysye seeks to recover payment for Ale sold to the amount of 26s. 8d.; while William Lawes and others point out that John Voysye is not a licensed Brewer: and the upshot is that John Voysye is fined 20s. for breaking the order of the Bishop of Sarum, but the fine shall be remitted if he "goe unto the (Bishop's) Surveyor and require hym of forgiveness." But William Lawes who is an innkeeper and the other "honest p'sons" the defendants are to keep the 26s. 8d. "in satisfaction of their costes and damages." Now these are very large powers to be given to a popular committee: this body chooses the Brewers and practically controls their number, it chooses the retail dealers and entirely controls their number, it inspects and tests the measures used. It presents erring Brewers in the Hundred Court, on the report of the Ale

taster; it takes precautions against the sale of bad Ale; it limits the price and makes 'cornering,' so far as may be, impossible. In short the number of Retail Houses and the character of the Ale are left to the control and determination of a large and surely in reality representative Committee of the Inhabitants. This committee, it is true, is not elected by popular vote, but nominated by the Lord of the Town. A curious point is that the supply of private customers is pointedly put first, that of retail dealers afterwards; the fact being that at this time, before the days of tea and coffee, Ale was, as much as they are now, a necessity of life. This is, I think, an interesting peep into the Local Government of that day.

An old Account Roll. No Account Roll of the Fairs and Markets before the dissolution of the Monastery exists; but we can illustrate the case fairly well by an account for the year 1585 or rather for the year beginning 7th December, 1584—this account is taken purely at random. It is written in Latin and therefore in this age of advanced education I had better translate it; it is the account of Edward Ponde, Warden and Receiver of all the rents and revenues of Sherborne School &c. . . including the profits of the Fairs and Markets:

	£	s.	d.
Receipts—Balance of last warden John Whetcombe	5	13	8
Profits of fair at Castleton (S. Swithun's)	1	6	7½
Profits of the Green (S. Thomas à Becket's)	1	17	2
Profits of S. Michael's fair (Pack Monday)	3	2	2
Sheep rate		6	8
From Robert Chetmyll for Tolsey		11	0
Rent of Shambles and Standings for one year	2	7	1
	<hr/>		
	£15	4	4½
	<hr/>		



	£	s.	d.
Expenditure.—Wages of Richard Chaffyn for cleaning of market place	0	10	0
Pd. Richard Chaffn for cleaning Churchyard after S. Michael's Fair			6
Pd. John Yatman towards the ex- penses of his dispute with Alice Meer widow		5	0
Pavement in Akermanstrete		7	4
Pd. Jaspar Fridlock for his counsel in the above dispute		10	0
Pd. Robert Chetmyll for an account book	0	2	0
Pd. for paper			1
Pd. for rent of Fairs and Markets to the Bishop of Sarum	3	16	8
		<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>
		7	
Balance	9	12	9½
		<u>15</u>	<u>4</u>
		4	½

The Balance is paid to the next Warder of the School Lawrence Swetnam and so this accountant rests quiet.

Having now got some idea of old Sherborne with its crosses and Chapels and constables, the powers of the great prelate of Sarum and our lord Abbot, the Ale Taster or Vent Bedell and our friend the Scavenger whose salary for the year seems so inadequate, let us pass on to look at the effect on Sherborne of the dissolution of the Monastery. From what I am going to tell, it will speedily be evident that Sherborne was made considerably poorer in consequence.

Henry viii.  
an expensive  
King.

On the 18th of March, 1539, Abbot John Barnstaple with 16 monks surrendered the Abbey with all that belonged to it into the hands of King Henry viii;

the surrender was in theory voluntary, there was "no compulsion, only you must"—the Act of Parliament, which professed to deal with the greater Monasteries, was not yet passed; but if an Abbot did not surrender, he was likely to be hanged, as Whiting Abbot of Glastonbury was, on some charge or other. The Abbot of Sherborne and his monks retired on good pensions, as the value of money then was, and the Abbot took the living of Stalbridge, one of the livings of which the Abbey had owned the Advowson, where he died in 1560. On the 4th January, 1540, the King demised to Sir John Horsey, Kt. of Clifton Maybank and "Councillor to the said Kinges grace" the house and site of the dissolved monastery, with all the demesne lands thereto formerly belonging, situate in and about Sherborne, together with the Manors of Wyke, Bradford and Creech in Purbeck. The other manors belonging to the Abbey, about 20 in number, situate mostly in Dorset but also in Devon and Somerset, passed into other hands; and thus was withdrawn from what was on the face of it a corporation, engaged in education and religious work, a property with an annual rental of £794 17s. 3½d., without taking into account the priories of Kidwelly and Horton. The valuation was made as low as possible from interested motives, but it has been calculated, that the lands, thus taken from a *quasi* public body and for the most part transferred to private pockets, are now bringing in £50,000 a year.

This fine property was disposed of no doubt as other Abbey lands were; the demesne lands of Sherborne, as we see, went to a courtier, Sir John Horsey, for the sum of £1242 3s. 9d.; no doubt they were really sold to him at this figure as a reward for services to the King, for which Henry viii. had not paid. Speaking generally, if we put aside the money devoted at this time to the foundation of a few bishoprics, to fortification and to ship-building, we shall not be far wrong in saying that the remainder went into the purse of the King and into the pockets of those, to whom he believed himself indebted or whose services

he wished to secure. Henry viii. was an expensive monarch ; in 1529 an Act of Parliament had relieved him of his debts, and the windfalls from the monasteries from 1536 to 1540 must have been very welcome ; it is therefore with some pain and surprise that we find in 1544 Parliament passing another Act like that of 1529.

The parishioners  
buy the Abbey  
Church.

Sir John Horsey might have done what he liked with the Abbey Church, pulled it down or turned it into a barn or kept it as a private chapel, as the Duke of

Norfolk kept the Choir of the Church of Arundel ; instead of this he wisely decided to sell it to the parish, witness the following entry in the Parish Register 25th March, 1540. The ffest  
“ of the Anuncacon of our Ladie beinge the Shere Thursday in  
“ Cena Domini (Maundy Thursday), the yeare of Our Lord 1540,  
“ and the 31. of our Soueraigne Lord King Henry the viii, the  
“ monks being expelled and the house suppressed by the Kinges  
“ Authorite, Master John Horsey Kt, counsellor to the s<sup>d</sup> Kinges  
“ grace, bought the s<sup>d</sup> suppressed House to him sculf and to  
“ his heyres in ffee for ever, and then the s<sup>d</sup> Master Horsey Kt  
“ sold the s<sup>d</sup> Church and the ground to the Vicar and parish of  
“ Sherbourn for one C. markes, to them and their successors for  
“ ever, and the s Vicar and parish toke possession on the same  
“ daye and yeare aboue said. P<sup>r</sup> me D. Joh'em Chetmyll Vic.”  
It must not be supposed that this was all the parish paid for the Church, for by the time they had bought the lead and other things the total came to £300. Still it was a cheap bargain ; the Abbey was then in all the splendour of its really recent Restoration, and we cannot commend too highly the public spirit of the parish, which contrasts most favourably with that shown by the citizens of Bath at the same period. Alhalowes Church was abandoned and what had been the Church of the monks now became by purchase the Church of the parishioners. But very inadequate provision was made either for the maintenance of the Vicar or the fabric, now that the Abbot and monks

were gone ; possibly this was only due to a wise anticipation of what in some quarters is now described as the "inspiring principle of voluntary support." But with all due respect to this view, it seems a pity that a building, which belongs not to Sherborne only, but to all England as an artistic possession, should be at the mercy of such a casual principle as that referred to above. To one who knows the history of the fabric during the present century it seems little less than a miracle that the Church is in the splendid condition in which we see it now, and this would have been impossible without the munificent help which the Digby family especially have from time to time given.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### THE BUILDINGS OF SHERBORNE SCHOOL.

The age of  
the School.

I have already noticed that the date of the foundation of the Cathedral Church of Sherborne is 705, and we may safely infer from analogy that this too is the date of the establishment of the School. If this be true, it seems to follow, as those who have any real acquaintance with the history of Wessex now admit, that, as the youth of Alfred the Great was passed in Sherborne, he most probably received his education in the Cathedral School. That the School was in existence in the 11th century we know from the recorded fact that in the 11th century S. Stephen Harding as a boy was educated here ; we also know from the Almshouse accounts that Thomas Copeland, Master of Sherborne School, was one of the subscribers to the fund for re-building that Institution in 1437. There was no break in the life of the School at the dissolution of the Monastery, though the School then lost the Exhibitions, which, as we learn

from the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1536, had year by year been given to it by the Abbot and Convent of Sherborne ; but the School itself went on, though doubtless in a somewhat crippled condition, paying its " dry rent " of 4d. a year, not as in former days to the Monastery, but to Sir John Horsey, the lay improPRIATOR of the demesne lands of Sherborne Abbey.

It must, however, not be forgotten that there was no break whatever in the continuity of the School's life ; the last Headmaster under the old system, Master Gybson, was chosen first Headmaster of the School as refounded by Edward vi, though we learn from the Governors' Minutes of 1550 that the last Usher or Undermaster under the old system had resigned in September of that year and that a new one was then to be chosen in his place. The Minutes are quite clear on the point as to the School's continuity. It is therefore a perfectly fair inference to make, that in 1905 this School will have been in existence 1200 years.

I now propose to take the buildings one by one, in the order in which they came into the possession of the School after its refoundation, or in other words the Grant of its Charter and endowment by Edward vi, in 1550.

<p>The History of the Schoolhouse Dining-hall.</p>	<p>In the year 1540 the old ' Scholehouse ' of Sherborne passed by grant of Henry viii. together with the rest of the Monastery to Sir John Horsey ; he however in no way disturbed the School's tenure and the old rent of 4d. a year was now paid to him as it had hitherto been paid to the Monastery ; this old ' Scholehouse ' stood on the site of the present Dining-hall of the Schoolhouse. In the year 1555 however Sir John Horsey devised to the Governors by lease for 99 years the Schoolhouse, Plumb House Garden, School Barton and the ground on which the Lady Chapels of the Abbey (i.e. that part of them which had been removed) had stood. Where-</p>
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upon the Governors rebuilt and enlarged the Schoolhouse. The Schoolroom thus built continued to be used till 1670; but meanwhile certain details have to be told. In 1605 on the 1st September, Sir Raufe Horsey granted to the Governors this same property on lease for 1000 years, and thereupon the Governors proceeded to build the Block, with which I shall deal, when I have dealt with the converted Lady Chapels. In 1607 the King's Arms were set up, which may still be seen over the S. door of the present building, for they were replaced after the rebuilding of 1670. In 1614 the King's Statue, which still stands in this Hall, was set up; it is of painted stone, and is the work of a certain Godfrey Arnold and cost £9 5s. 4d.: from time to time henceforth we get entries in the School accounts of this sort "for washing of ye King—6d." Under the King's Statue were placed the following four lines, which are still there:

En tibi, Flos iuvenum, Britonum Decus, Inclytus orbis  
 Splendor, Apollinei Deliciaeque Chori,  
 Gymnasium hic pueris statuit gratumque Minerval,  
 Vt gratis discant—discito—gratus eris.

In 1629, on the 1st of December, the Trustees of the Coker family to whom the Sherborne estate of the Horsey family had passed conveyed this property together with the Old Abbey Conduit and all the Newell Water rights to the Governors of the School in fee for ever, reserving to the Town of Sherborne the right to water at the Conduit. This conveyance was made to the Governors in a round-about way in order to evade the Statute of Mortmain: *i.e.* it was conveyed to "feoffees" for them, under what was known as "the liberty of association," according to the law or equity about uses and trusts, which enabled a body of men to own property, while a screen of feoffees protected it from the inquisitive scrutiny of the State.

On the 10th of August, 1650, in the wardenship of Hugh Hodges, the Governors agreed "that the warden doe gett

“workmen to take downe the King’s armes over the Schole door and at the south end of the Scholehouse, it being commanded and required by Captayne Helyar, a Captayne for the Parliament, to be done.” Both these coats were then removed. This truculent Captain was probably an Old Shirburnian ; there have been many Helyars at Sherborne School both before and since. On the 8th of March, 1669, “it is agreed that the Warden ” and others “do treat w<sup>t</sup> workmen for the re-building of the Schoole and to communicate the proposalls “concerning the same to the Company att a meeting to be had “for that purpose.” The result of this was that the old Schoolroom of 1555 was re-built by 1670 ; and by the 16th July of that year the King’s Statue which had stood in the old School was again set up in a similar position in the new School, and the King’s arms also taken down under the Commonwealth were restored to their positions on the S. front of the Old House and also above the School door, where we see them to this day. The King’s arms over the School door set up in 1607 had been originally blazoned with their proper tinctures and metals, but now the Governors order that they are only to be washed over with oil or some sad colour without any more adorning and the warden is to give order “for putting the same four Latin verses “under the feet of the King’s statue, which were formerly “there.” He is also to desire Mr. Goodenough then Headmaster, “to make a paire of Latin verses to putt under the King’s arms aforesaid ” *i.e.* the arms over the School door. In answer to the Warden’s demand Mr. Goodenough produced the clever chronogram, which, while describing the coat of arms, gives not only the date of the re-building of the Schoolroom but also the date of the re-foundation of the School.

The chronogram runs as follows :

**Texta Draco custos, Leo vinDeX, fLos Decus, auctor  
ReX pius, haec servat, protegit, ornat, aLit.**

The date of the re-founding of the School is got by taking the black letters together thus :

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \text{DL} & + & \text{DX} & + & \text{LD} & + & \text{XL} & = & 1550. \\ 550 & & 510 & & 450 & & 40 & & \end{array}$$

The date of the building is got by adding all the black letters together thus :

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc} \text{D} & + & \text{L} & + & \text{D} & + & \text{X} & + & \text{L} & + & \text{D} & + & \text{X} & + & \text{L} & = & 1670. \\ 500 & & 50 & & 500 & & 10 & & 50 & & 500 & & 10 & & 50 & & \end{array}$$

The building thus re-constructed still stands—a Jacobean work of considerable architectural beauty with a fine waggon-roof of timber re-constructed owing to the exertions and largely at the cost of the late Headmaster, Mr. Young, some few years ago, at which time the S. wall was practically re-built and the bay-window thrown out at the S.E. corner of the room. It continued to be the Big Schoolroom of the School till the year 1853. On its woodwork still remain the names of many Old Shirburnians and the shields of others carved by the boys themselves in days gone by. Though it has now for nearly half a century ceased to be a School-building and become a School-house building, it is still in the eyes of all Shirburnians the representative of the Old School, for it probably stands on the very site, it certainly represents the very building, which King Alfred, which S. Stephen Harding knew as Sherborne School.

The History of  
the Old House.

The next building which we have to deal  
with is the Old House—the old residence  
of the Headmasters formed out of the

Lady Chapels of the Abbey. In 1560 the Master and Brethren of the Almshouse conveyed to the Governors of the School in fee simple for ever “ All that p'te and p'celle of two Chapells “ sometyme called oure lady Chapells as they be now standyng “ sett adioynyng and fixed unto the Easte ende of the p'isshe “ Church of Shyrborne fforesaide. And also all that p'te and



“Southe end of the howse comenly called the dorter both tymber  
 “and stones as it nowe standithe and adioynethe to the northe  
 “Ilde (*sic*) of the saide Churche thatt is to saye from the  
 “Chapterhouse dore unto the saide north Ilde, on the west syde  
 “of the saide dortor, and on the easte p'te of the said dortor all  
 “that buyldyng and stonewurke ffrom and betwyne the easte  
 “wyndowe of the saide Chapyterhouse and the said p'isshe  
 “Churche.” Thus the two Lady Chapels and that part of the  
 Monks' Dormitory which bounded the Abbey Lytten on the W.  
 passed into the ownership of the Governors. As we never hear  
 again of the Chapterhouse or Dormitory in connection with the  
 School buildings, it seems to me a fair inference that the  
 Governors thereupon pulled down the Dormitory with the  
 Chapterhouse underneath, (except so much as still stands which  
 they wisely left as a buttress to the N. Transept of the Abbey  
 Church), and used the stones for the building which they now  
 undertook, when converting the two Lady Chapels into a  
 residence for the Headmaster.

This property had been bought from Sir John Horsey by the  
 Master and Brethren of the Almshouse in 1552 together with  
 a lease for 200 years the site of the Conduit. The Conduit must  
 have been removed from the Cloister Conrt to the Parade  
 between 1560 and 1568; for we learn from the School accounts  
 that it stood on the Parade in 1568. In 1574 the School  
 Governors took over from the Master and Brethren of the  
 Almshouse the Conduit, for what consideration there is no  
 mention, and from 1574 the charge of the Conduit and the  
 water pipes connected with it has been taken by the Governors  
 and it has cost them from time to time large sums of money, but  
 the Newell spring no doubt was important as the School water  
 supply in earlier days, before the present town water supply  
 was provided.

In 1560 then, the Governors dealt with the Lady Chapels, and  
 it cannot be said that they treated them in an unpicturesque

way. For this reason it would be a great pity ever to tamper with the external walls of the Old House ; if the Chapels were now restored externally, they would be mere imitations ; a very picturesque Tudor building would be destroyed and a page would be torn out of the history of the fabric. But a very good case could be made for a restoration of the interior. The external decoration of this Residence for the Headmaster was paid for by a subscription of the Governors and friends of the School ; who these were will appear from the description of this decoration, which is as follows : first we have a very fine carved coat of arms of Edward VI. ; next, below, the arms of Bishop Jewel of Sarum, of Horsey of Clifton Maybank, of Leweston of Leweston, next a coat not now decipherable, then those of Mullens of Westhall, and lastly those of Thornhill of Thornhill ; underneath these again are eighteen sets of initials, which belong to the Governors ; two of these are now gone, but they were legible some years ago. The sets of initials are as follows in order from left to right ; I.A. Jerves Asshley. H.S. Henry Sembarbe. T.W. Thomas Wynnyff. A.D. Anthony Delabere. R.C. Richard Cowper. H.M. Hugh Meer. I.F. John Frye. I.S. John Southay. W.C. William Coothe. B.C. Bryan Cole. L.S. Lawrence Swetnam. R.A. Robert Albon. R.W. Robert Wase. R.O. Richard Okeley. L.B. Lawrence Bishop. R.G. Robert Genyng. I.H. John Hillarde. W.T. William Thornton. A subscription list containing sixteen of these names is added to the School account roll of 1560-61 ; the amount subscribed is £3 11s. 4d. ; the two names which do not appear in the subscription list are those of Anthony Delabere and Robert Genyng, whose subscriptions together with those of Bishop Jewel, Horsey, Leweston, Mullens, Thornhill, and another, whose coats of arms were set up, must have come in later. The subscription list is headed : " Money geven to the makynge of the armes of o<sup>r</sup> late Sov'ayng lord Kinge Edwarde the Sixt."

To the Residence thus formed were added in due course a kitchen and other offices at the N. end, extending thence westward, in a line parallel to the N. Aisle of the Church Choir, as far as the E. wall of Bishop Roger's Chapel, but a small space of about six feet was left between the offices and the Chapel. These kitchens were extended in 1642 and a Buttery with hatch was added and three Chambers for the Usher, if a bachelor ; if married he took a house in the town. Here then in the old Lady Chapels the Headmasters of the School resided from 1561 to 1860, when the present Residence was built ; thereupon the old kitchen and offices which stood in front of the N. Aisle of the Church Choir were removed ; they were in the same style as the Old House, but not so ornamental. The dial which still adorns the tympanum of the gable of the Old House was set up in the year of famous memory 1745 by Benjamin Bastard, at a cost of £5. The large bay-windows on the East of the Old House were planned and put in by Dr. Lyon, Headmaster 1823-1845, and so thoroughly in keeping are they with the rest of the building, that at first sight one would not suspect them of being a later insertion.

The history of  
the Old Library  
&c.

The next Block of building we have to deal with is that which lies between the Schoolhouse Dining-hall on the S. and the Bell buildings on the North ; this was begun in 1605 when the Governors got from Sir Raufe Horsey the lease for 1000 years already referred to. The work was finished in 1607 and extended over a considerable part of the site now occupied by the Bell Buildings ; the Southern part of it was of two stories ; the Northern part which protruded Eastward was built for a brew-house and a wood-house, for the common fuel then used was wood ; coal was not used in the School furnaces till 1676. In 1642 as we learn from the Governors' Minute Book under date " 30th May it is agreed " that the Warden shall for the benefit and advantage of the

“ School rayse upon the side walls of the brewhouse and the woodhouse belonging to the Schoolhouse such chambers as “ may be conveniently made and rayseed on the same.” The brewhouse and woodhouse together with these chambers were removed in 1835, when the Bell buildings were put up. The warden who superintended this work was Henry Durnford, who lived in the fine old house in Newland with the Oriel window over the doorway. While the Parliamentary troops occupied Sherborne the School buildings and the Abbey Church were used as a barrack, and the Big Schoolroom was the ‘ Court of Guard,’ as they called it, of the garrison, which appears to have remained here from 1645 to 1649, perhaps not continuously ; I fear the teaching of the school must have suffered.

After the garrison departed in 1649. Walter Osmond was paid 5s. 6d. “ for mending the glasse windowes in the Schoole after the Souldiers went thence ” : and one Richman was paid 3s. and a woman was paid 6d. “ for three dayes worke and for straw and beasoms to make “ cleane the Schoole after the removinge of the Souldiers.” In 1654-1655 Cellars were made under this Block and vaulted with stone, and in 1660 further work was done here and stables were built on the North of the Block before 1685. In 1669-70, when the schoolroom of 1555 was re-built, this block of buildings was re-arranged ; the work thus done is commemorated by the stone tablet still to be seen on the outside of the W. wall of the old Library bearing the words : “ John Whetcombe ye elder, Warden 1670.” The fine old room on the first floor, which still keeps a scholastic air with its waggon-roof and wainscoting, was then if not before set apart for the School Library ; perhaps it may not be out of place to mention here that the first seat of the Library probably was in the Schoolroom at the E. end under the King’s statue, where shelves were placed in 1639-1640. But though the room was definitely set apart for the Library in 1670, it was not till 1676 in the Wardenship of Dr. Highmore that the furnishing of

it was completed. In that year we read in the Account Roll of the painting and gilding of the bookshelves, and "1300 of Leafe Silver" was also about the work; the artist who carried this out is described in the account as Oliver Fitzjerrard. All the gilding and "Leafe Silver" are gone now, but the old room is still charming; the room below it was for years the Schoolhouse dining-hall. Both these rooms are now devoted to Schoolhouse purposes. Building was going on continually from 1669 till 1680 in this part of the premises as the Accounts testify.

The history of  
the Box Build-  
ings, 1697.

The next Block of Buildings was the Box Buildings, which it was determined to erect on the 6th April, 1697. This building extended from Bishop Roger's Chapel on the S. to the Priory on the N., thus dividing the original School court into two; the Western Court was afterwards known as the Ball Court, the Eastern as the Bell Court. The Box Buildings were meant for a *Sanatorium*; on the first floor were "Chambers for sick boys;" on the ground floor a parlour and a woodhouse; they were connected with the Schoolhouse offices merely by a covered passage. Two years before an attack of small-pox had dispersed the boys. The Box Buildings were pulled down in 1855.

'Public School.'  
ye Inscription over  
of course to the  
passage :

In the Account Roll for 1712-13 we find  
an entry "To Charles King for gilding

Edwardi impensis patet haec Schola publica Sexti  
Grammaticae cupidis, nobile Regis opus.

Whether the inscription is older than 1712 I cannot say, but it is never mentioned in the Account Rolls earlier.

The Priory bought and demolished 1749.      The next extension of the School premises was made in the year 1749, when on the 24th of March the Governors bought from the parish of Sherborne the Old Priory and the garden behind it. The Priory was pulled down; some additional school accommodation was built on its site at the N. end of the Box Buildings, and the Priory Garden became the Garden of the Headmaster; and here the Headmaster's garden was for more than 100 years. The Priory was situated between the E. front of the present Schoolhouse studies and the W. end of the Headmaster's present Residence. The garden was the grass plot on the East side of the present great Court of the School, between the old elm trees and the present Dormitory Block of the Schoolhouse. It may be interesting to give the description of this property which occurs in the deed, by which the ownership of it is transferred to the Governors; it runs as follows; "All that House commonly called the priory or prior's Lodging situate lying and being in Sherborne aforesaid theretofore in the tenure, &c. . . . and also one parcell of pasture ground containing by Estimation an acre (be it more or less) next adjoining to the said House called the priory or prior's lodging and converted into an Orchard and Court or Barton and theretofore parcel of a Court called the Abbey Court, &c."

The Bell Buildings.      There was no further extension of the School premises till the year 1835, when Dr. Lyon, then in the zenith of his fame as Headmaster, advanced to the Governors the money for the erection of the Bell Buildings which lie to the S.E. of the present Residence of the Headmaster, and partly on the site of, partly to the N. of, the old Brewhouse and Woodhouse, which were built in 1605-1607. Over the doorway is the following inscription, which was set there in 1843: *Scholae Regali crescente fama adcrevit hocce aedificium MDCCCXXXV.*

On 6th Oct. 1840, Dr. Lyon proposed to build a new Kitchen with Bedroom over, and a covered passage from the Dwelling-house to the Library ; he paying half the amount. On 19th Oct. the Governors agreed to this. This building has been removed.

The Conduit again.	As the Conduit is the property of the School, it may not be out of place here to mention that in 1834 the windows were glazed, a door was put to it and it was furnished at a cost of £140 as a reading-room for the use of the town ; in 1847 the Reading Room Scheme came to an end. For the rest of its history see Chapter IX.
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In the year 1840 a new Fives Court was made in the Ball court West of the Box Buildings, probably on the site of an older one, which is mentioned in the School Accounts as early as 1674, as a well known part of the School premises.

History of the Guesten Hall first as Big Schoolroom, second as Library.	On the 24th October 1851 Edward, Earl of Digby, gave to the Governors of the School the Guesten Hall, the Abbot's Hall and Lodgings together with the Abbey Kitchen, the land of the Little Court with the site upon which the Classrooms to the S.W. of the Chapel now stand and the land upon which the Lavatory Block. the present Big School and the Block of Classrooms to the N.E. of it now stand, together with all that part of the Great Court itself, which is in Hutchins' Dorset erroneously described as the Abbey Lytten, and which lies to the W. of the old elm trees. It would be impossible to exaggerate the importance to the School of that splendid gift.
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In 1853 the Guesten Hall, having been restored very carefully and successfully by Mr. R. C. Carpenter, was first used as a

Big Schoolroom and the following inscription, carved in stone and let into the North wall of the room commemorates thus :

VT MEMINERIT PRAESENS AETAS  
 TRADATQVE POSTERIS,  
 QVA FVERIT MVNIFICENTIA  
 EDVARDVS COMES DIGBY,  
 QVI HAS AEDES RELIGIONI OLIM DEDITAS  
 RELIGIONI RESTITVIT  
 A.D. MDCCCLIII,  
 HVNC LAPIDEM PONENDVM CVRAVERVNT  
 GVBERNATORES.

Thus, at the end of three hundred years that room, which occupied the site both of the pre-Reformation schoolroom and of the first schoolroom of the re-founded School, was devoted to a new purpose ; it became the Schoolhouse Dining-Hall. On the other hand the Guesten Hall, the place wherein the Convent of Sherborne had kept their feasts and entertained their guests, became the Big Schoolroom.

For a quarter of a century from 1855 to 1879 this room was used as a Big Schoolroom. But in 1877 the present Big Schoolroom was begun on the W. side of the great Court and when it was finished in 1879 the Guesten Hall was devoted to another use, for which it was admirably adapted. In 1880 the books were brought here ; in 1881 and again in 1884 additional shelves were put in and improvements made. To-day this fine 15th century Hall with its contemporary timber roof, its library furniture, its books and treasures is a room of which all Shirburnians may well be proud. In 1887 the large four-light S. window was filled with stained glass to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria ; this has been a very great improve-



ment to the room, not only because the glass is in itself good, but also because the tracery of the window is somewhat meagre. In the quatre-foil of the window-head is the badge of Edward VI. the "Sun in Splendour;" in the batement-lights are the figures of Abbot Bradford, the restorer of the Abbey Church Choir; of Roger Bishop of Sarum, the builder of the Norman Church and Castle of Sherborne; of Æthelbald and Æthelberht, Kings of Wessex, buried close by; of Ine King of Wessex, the founder of Sherborne; of S. Ealdhelm the first Bishop of Sherborne. In the heads of the window-lights are the Shields of Salisbury, Dorchester, Wells, and Exeter, recalling the four counties, which are specially represented on the Governing Body of the School. Below come the main subjects of the window, viz., the Petition to the Protector Somerset for the re-founding of the School, and the granting of the Charter by Edward VI.: below are the shields of Sherborne Abbey, of Queen Victoria, of Edward VI. and of the See of Sarum. The tracery of this window is peculiar; it is a development, but not, I think, a successful one of the ordinary two light perpendicular window with alternate tracery. From the head of each of the four lights a straight bar on the first plane runs up perpendicularly into the window-head; thus three panels are formed; each of which is divided into two panels by a bar on the second plane of tracery. The two panels, into which the central panel is divided, support a large quatrefoil in the very top of the window. The other windows of the room, six of which are genuine 15th century work, are each of two lights of alternate tracery, the panel in each window-head is sub-divided on a lower plane of tracery—these smaller panels supporting a small quatrefoil. These windows are of excellent proportion and add very much to the beauty of the room. I shall in another chapter deal with the books and other treasures which the Library contains. In 1852 the great North Gate and Lodge were built.

The History of  
the Chapel and  
School House  
Studies.

The Abbot's Hall, as I have already said, became the property of the Governors in 1851 along with the Guesten Hall and the Abbot's Lodgings. The Lodgings with what was left of the Abbey Kitchen were converted into the present School House Studies, and the Abbot's Hall into the Chapel. The work was completed and the Chapel consecrated by Bishop Hamilton of Sarum on the 17th February 1855; it is dedicated to S. John the Evangelist. In 1865 this building was extended two bays Westward, and the room thus added to the undercroft, was made into the VIth Form class-room, and was so used till the year 1878. During 1877-1878 the Chapel was enlarged by the addition of a N. Aisle supported on a Perpendicular Cloister and the Chancel was decorated with a Perpendicular reredos, designed by Mr. R. H Carpenter, to commemorate the Headmastership of Dr Harper; this N. Aisle was extended eastward in 1881. The timber-roof of the older part of the Chapel is of 15th century date and more elaborate than that of the Library. All the windows are modern; the tracery is very pleasing but of eclectic character, containing not only Perpendicular designs, but also Geometrical and Flowing figures, such as we do not find in the 15th century windows of this part of England. The stained glass is by Messrs. Clayton and Bell; it has been put in gradually as occasion arose, and shows neither the hardness of taste of the earlier part of the 19th century, nor the limpness of its close. The subjects are all scriptural, except those depicted in the great West window, and need no comment nor explanation. The great West Window, which is a memorial of Dr. Harper, is meant to recall the leading events in the history of this place; in the central light are the figures of S. Ealdhelm the first teacher here, and of S. Stephen Harding one at any rate of the most famous of Sherborne boys. The four scenes represented are: 1st, Ealdhelm teaching his boys in the School in A.D. 705; 2nd, Ealhstan, Bishop and Abbot, dealing the first successful

blow against the Danes at the mouth of the Parret in 845; 3rd, Thomas Coke, Fellow of Queen's College, Oxon., the first Headmaster appointed, after the granting of the Charter; 4th, Hugo Daniel Harper recalling the glories of Sherborne at the tercentenary celebration of the School's refounding in 1850. In the *vesica* of the window head are the arms of Edward VI., the second founder of this place, and in the panels above it the arms of Hammond and Hensley, in those below it the arms of Kelland and Lewis Morris, Old Shirburnians chosen for special mark here not for their own sakes merely, but because they represent many others of their school-fellows who took the same roads in life. In the circles which occupy the spandrels between the arches of the *fenestellae* and the principal mullions are the Golden Dragon of Wessex and the Tudor Rose. In the basement lights of one *fenestella* are two kings, Ine the first founder of this place and Alfred an Old Shirburnian, as we believe, and the greatest of Wessex kings; in the basement lights of the other stand Bishop Osmund the Compiler of the *Use of Sarum* and once chief of this Monastery and School, and Thomas Wynnyff, Bishop of Lincoln, once a Sherborne boy, who suffered for the Church of England in the time of the civil war. Two seats there are in the Chapel, each marked by a brass; the contrast between them is striking, but the coincidence undesigned. One brass marks the seat of Dr Harper, who ruled this school for twenty-seven years and who died an old and honoured man in 1895; the other marks the seat of a child, Lawrence Warmington, who came to Sherborne in September and died in December 1885, aged 13. The memorial brasses on the walls, like the windows, tell their own tale.

New Residence for Headmaster, New Schoolhouse Dormitory Block, New Fives Courts 1860-61.	In 1860 the Governors sold to Mr. George Wingfield Digby of Sherborne Castle, the Old House, and in the same year the New Residence of the Headmaster, and the Dormitory Block stretching Northward from it were
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begun, and finished in 1861; to the large room in this Block, now known as the Schoolhouse Reading Room, the books were removed from the Old Library in the same year and they remained here till 1880, when they were again removed to the present Library already described; in 1861 too the old Ball Court was done away with, and new Fives Courts were built by the bounty of Mr. George Wingfield Digby on the site of the present Big School; they were added to by subscription in 1869 and were removed to their present site near the Bath in 1874.

New Classrooms      In 1869 the new classroom Block was  
in Little Court.      built which forms the W. side of the  
Little Court, of which the Chapel, the  
Library and the N. wall of Alhalowes Church form the other  
three.

Carpenter's Shop,      In 1873 the Abbey Mills and lands  
Laboratory,            adjoining, including the present Head-  
Drawing School,      master's garden, orchard and paddock  
Armoury, Con-        were bought by the Governors from the  
cert room.            trustees of Edward, Earl of Digby.  
The Mills were converted into a  
laboratory, concert room, drawing school, and carpenter's shop,  
and in 1890 the armoury of the Cadet Corps was housed in the  
same buildings.

Music House.          The house to the N.E. of this, part of  
the same property, was at the same time  
turned into a place for the teaching of music, with pianos in  
separate rooms, and small dens in which fiddlers can practice  
with impunity.

Swimming Bath.      In 1873 the Swimming Bath, one of the  
great glories of Sherborne, was made; it  
is fed by the famous New Well. The first 'header' taken into

it is thus commemorated on a stone tablet, placed above the doorway by the Rev. F. B. Westcott in 1895 :

IN ISTAM PISCINAM  
 PRIMVS SALTU SE DEDIT  
 ID. IVL. A.S. MDCCCLXXIII  
 HVGO D. HARPER A.M.  
 AVCTOR IDEM ATQVE CONDITOR.

In 1879 the Concert Room was turned into a Museum, which now contains a splendid collection of Dorset fossils, eggs, beetles, butterflies, and many other treasures, which I do not know how to describe. There is one fossil of immense importance; it is the head of a *Megalosaurus*, found in the great Bristol Road Quarry—this head is precious, because it is the only one yet found which shows the true shape of the creature's nose-end. When Professor Owen saw it, he had to admit that up till that time his conception of the profile of the *Megalosaurus* had been incorrect; he had given it a Roman and it has a turned-up nose of a pronounced kind. Some interesting specimens gathered on the *Challenger* Expedition were given by Sir George Nares. There is no catalogue of the treasures of the Museum, as there ought to be and will be some day.

Sanatorium.            On this same property bought in 1873 there was built in 1887 a *Sanatorium* in the orchard; its style is in harmony with the other buildings, but as it stands at some distance from the School it does not appear on the plan.

Gymnasium.            The Gymnasium, standing just outside the North Gate of the School Court, is a temporary structure excellent in its furniture but unpicturesque in its appearance.

New Big  
School.

We must now return to the great court from which we have been decoyed by the Swimming Bath and those other additions built on the property bought in 1873. In 1877 was begun the greatest of all Modern Sherborne Buildings viz., the New Big School, which lies along the northern part of the W. side of the Great Court. The building was opened on Prize Day 1879. It is a large and well proportioned hall of Perpendicular style, and is an excellent place for sound. The direction of the room is of course from N. to S. and the S end contains a large five-light window of Perpendicular design, but the Tracery has strongly marked flowing features; the side-windows are tall, of two lights, divided by a transome, the window-heads being of divergent pattern and suggesting later 14th century ideas. Under the S. window is a gallery, inserted according to the original design by Mr. Young, late Headmaster, at his own charge. In 1883 an opportunity occurred of forming in the N. wall, a recess for an organ-chamber, and in 1884 an organ was placed there. The effect on the room of this addition is excellent. There is a tradition that a merchant-prince, who visited the Big School some years ago, remarked that it was "a nicely-proportioned room but poorly furnished." And in that criticism he was not far wrong, but everything cannot be done at once. Yet if that critic saw the room now, he would not make the same remark. In 1894 at the instigation and largely at the charge of one of the Sherborne staff the good work was begun of bringing the woodwork and the furniture to the level of the architectural beauty of the room. In place of the deal desks were substituted desks of unstained oak, the toning of which will be left to time; round the walls is a Dado of oak panelling of the same sort; the platform for the orchestra, the tiers of seats for the chorus behind, and towering above all the organ-case wrought out of similar oak in English Renaissance style, the wainscotting at the N. end rising by steps from the Dado level to the base of the organ case, lead the eye upward

by ranks of organ pipes, till it rests at last on a graceful figure of Orpheus with his lute, high up in the stone arch of the organ chamber. The whole design, the work of Mr. Reginald Blomfield, dado, platform, bench-tiers, and organ-case is really very impressive. The timber-roof and the S. gallery, which are of pitch pine, in their varnished condition no longer harmonised with the oak below, and they have been painted a dark green. This, no doubt, shows up strongly the delicate tone of the new oak ; but the oak will darken with age, and the lightness of the room will grow dimmer ; and the timber-roof which now seems nearer one's head, than it did before, will gradually appear more and more crushing, unless it be picked out with gilding and colour, and the shields on it, which now look so meaningless, be blazoned with tinctures and metals. In this room appear on great boards lists of the winners of School prizes, and University distinctions ; but there are other distinctions than these, of which no note is taken here, and many a Sherborne boy comes and goes without learning, that Sherborne claims among her sons the translator of "Jerusalem the Golden." On the walls at a level below these honour-boards are two large panels inscribed with the names of the Headmasters of the School from 1550 to the present day. The Big School was connected with the Chapel undercroft by the Cloister on the W. of the Great Court in 1879. In 1896 an oak floor was laid in the room.

<p>New Classrooms 1883.</p>	<p>In 1883 a new block of Classrooms was built to the North and North East of this Big School ; this block is of good perpendicular work, and has one specially fine feature, viz., the stair-case window.</p>
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As to the field with its pavilion, or the boarding-houses, which are dotted about, or the Preparatory School, they do not form one group with the School buildings, and they must therefore

be passed over here. The two plans which are given, the one of the buildings at the time of the Dissolution of the Monastery in 1539, the other of the buildings as they now are, should be carefully compared; it will then be evident what the peculiar distinction of Sherborne School is among those few ancient schools which date back to the beginning of Christianity in England; the distinction is this, that Sherborne School more than any other has kept so much of the old walls and of the very shape of the Monastic house with which it was connected. It is worth a thought that, out of all these buildings, only two are still used by the sort of people by whom they were used in the eighth century. These two are the Church and School; but from the Church the parishioners were excluded for more than a hundred years, from the Schoolhouse the Scholars have never been excluded.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE SCHOOL CHARTER AND STATUTES.

<p>Refoundation of the School and Grant of the Charter.</p>	<p>I have already noted in the last chapter that there was no breach in the continuity of the life of the School at the dissolution of the Monastery, though it certainly suffered somewhat financially by that event. But on the 13th of May, 1550, King Edward VI. gave the School a Charter and a good endowment of land; none of this land, however, was situated in Sherborne, and the benefits of the foundation were in no way limited to Sherborne people. The claim of Sherborne to have a School of this sort rested partly on its situation as a convenient centre, but far more on this, that there had been here for ages past a famous school.</p>
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The Charter provides for the foundation of a free Grammar School for the education and instruction of boys and young men in *grammatica*; on the foundation there shall be one *magister seu pedagogus* and one *subpedagogus sive hipodidasculus, i.e.*, one Master and one Lower Master or Usher, as was the usual arrangement in places of higher education. That the School might for ever endure, a corporation was created to be known as the "Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods" of the School, having a common seal and other privileges usual to corporations; these Governors were to be 20 in number and resident in the parish of Sherborne; vacancies were to be filled by co-optation. For the support of the School the King set apart lands, which had belonged to certain Chantries which had been dissolved by Parliament in 1545 or in 1547. These Chantries are often described as "lapsed Chantries of the Abbey," but there is no evidence that they had any connection with the Abbey at all; they were founded in the Churches of Martock, Gillingham, Lychett Matravers, and Ilminster, and besides them the Governors were given the Free Chapel of Thornton in the parish of Marnhull. A chief rent for these lands of one mark per annum was to be paid into the Court of Augmentations; and this sum was paid by the Governors year by year, till on the 11th of December 1870 the Queen's Collector at last induced the Governors to redeem it for £16 13s. 4d.—I have found letter after letter, year after year, in which the redemption is suggested to the Governors.

Though two of these Chantries were in Somerset, all the lands with which they were endowed, except the Chantry House at Martock, are in Dorset. The Martock Chantry lands are near Wimborne, those of Gillingham are situated there as well as at Silton, Milton and Combermeade; the Chantry of Lychett, called Gibbon's, had lands at Lychett and at Sturminster Marshall, and the Ilminster Chantry, founded by John Wadham, had lands at Symonbsbury near Beaminster. All these lands

with their rentals and the names of their occupiers are described at length on a parchment which the Governors still possess, dated 29th March, 1550, two months before the date of the Charter. Some manorial Court Rolls of the following August, some minutes of Governors' meeting of the following October, and three leases of this year are in the Chest in the Library; the Governors became Feoffees of the land at Lady Day 1550, according to the Charter. The Governors are to have the right and power as a Corporation of holding these lands and receiving and acquiring other property in spite of the statute of Mortmain, provided such additional property does not exceed the annual value of £20. The School is to be *libera*, that is to say the education there is to be given free, so far as the endowment will allow; it is to be *grammaticalis*, that is to say, a place of higher education "for boys and young men"; it is *regalis* because it owes both its first and its second foundation to a King. People who wish to be polite, sometimes call Sherborne School Sherborne College; in doing so they are really taking from it one of its highest distinctions. Granted that the Schools of Winchester, Eton, and Westminster should still call themselves Colleges, there is not I believe a single other school in England which has a similar right; I hope that in making this statement I have done no injustice to Dulwich College. The term College as applied to a public school is a mark of very recent creation, when the meaning of the word College is no longer known. The oldest schools of this country are called by their true name *Schools*. It may be the case that there is a want of a term to describe the real *Schola Grammaticalis*, seeing that many Grammar Schools have ceased to teach *Grammatica*, and that indeed the scope of *Grammatica* has been very much widened during the last 50 years. It may be from some such cause as this, that under their *new schemes* many of the old public schools of the country are known and to be known henceforth by some such simple title as our own is—Sherborne School: such at any rate since 1871 is the only legal style and title of the School here.

Statutes of 1565. In 1559 the Governors sent to London for the "Articles of Powle Schole" evidently with a view to providing Statutes for the School here, which according to the Charter they were to do with the advice of the Bishop of Bristol, from time to time, as circumstances required. These "Articles of Powle Schole" are of course the scheme framed by Dean Colet for his own Grammar School beside S. Paul's Cathedral. In 1565 articles and statutes were drawn up, of which no trace now remains except the bill for engrossing them which amounted to X<sup>s</sup>.

Statutes of 1592. In 1592 was drawn up a second Body of Statutes with the advice and sanction of Richard Fletcher, Bishop of Bristol; these statutes are now under glass in the Library and give us the earliest picture we possess of the system of studies in the post-Reformation School. They are endorsed "Orders for Sherborne Schole confirmed 11<sup>o</sup> June, 1592." They consist of xii Clauses: Clause I. deals with the appointment of the Master and Usher, each of whom is to take the oath of Supremacy and a second oath of Association, which is the special oath to be faithful to his office, as I shall show presently. Great stress is laid on the "abolisshing of the Pope of Rome and all forrein powers superiorities and authorities." Clause II. declares that none is to be received as a scholar except such as "shalbe ready "at the least to enter into the gramer, That is to saie, such as "can reade latyn and English and something write." Clause III. declares "That every daie in the mornynge at six of the "Clock the Scholemaster and Ussber shall enter the Schole "And after praiers w<sup>ch</sup> been or shall be appoynted for the place "Shalbe orderly and devoutly said and a psalme songe The "Scholemaster and Ussher" shall send for any absentees "and "at their comynge shall correct them discreatly." They shall continue in the school "untill eight of the clock" and then go

to breakfast. "By nyne of the clock thaie shall retorne The  
 "master and usher employing their schollers in giving lectures  
 "and other exercises . . . and so to continewe unto eleven of  
 "the clock And then to depart to their dynner and all schollers  
 "to retorne half an hour after twelve of the clock And the  
 "master and ussher to enter the Schole agayne at one of the  
 "clock and continewe in their excercises untill three of the  
 "clock and departing then frome the schole to retorne at fower  
 "and contynewe theire said excercises untill fyve." At 5 o'clock  
 the day's work is done on ordinary days. Clause IV. deals with  
 holidays during the School terms. There is to be no liberty to  
 play in that week "Wherein is a holidae" *i.e.*, a Saint's Day.  
 But there is to be one half holiday in every week wherein is no  
 Saint's Day. On the eve of every Saint's Day they are to  
 "kepe their Schole and excercises untill evening praier And then  
 "to goe to the churche by twoe and twoe the master and ussher  
 "accompanying them." And every Sunday and Saint's Day  
 they are to "repaire to the Schole before the last ringing to  
 "praier mornyng and evenyng and from thence they shall goe  
 "by twoe and twoe to the churche in quiet and decent order, the  
 "master and ussher accompanieng them."

Clause V. orders that the Master and Usher shall see that  
 the scholars "demeane them selves scholastike," and they are  
 to use their influence with the "parents tutors and hostes" so  
 that all shall "demeane themselves honestly and soberly." No  
 scholar is "to sweare . . . nor to frequent Tavernes or victual-  
 "ling houses nor to plaie at dize cardes nor other unlawfull  
 "games." And to carry out this discipline better two prefects  
 are to be nominated weekly called *Impositores*, "to marke and  
 "present the faults."

Clause VI. orders that every Saturday from 1 o'clock in the  
 afternoon until evening prayer the Master and Usher shall  
 instruct the scholars in the "Knowledge of the Christian

“religion, the use and benefits of the Sacraments accordinge to “such bookes as are sett fourth by authoritie for that purpose.” as are confirmed shall be “partakers of the Communion” at least once in every year. And if any scholar refuses to do so, after 12 months “he shalbe expelled this Schole for ever, and be “farther presented, as the lawes of this Realme do requier.”

Clause VII. orders that “for every one that shalbe presented “to be a scholar in this schole, The parente or frynde w<sup>ch</sup> soe “presentith him shall paie unto the Scholemaster twelvecence, “except childerne borne in this towne vz for the Scholemaster “IIII<sup>d</sup>. ffor the Ussher IIII<sup>d</sup>. And for regestringe his name “IIII<sup>d</sup>.” This clause is specially interesting, first because it was illegal (and was in consequence left out of the statutes of 1679) as putting Sherborne children in an exceptional position though the endowment is general, second because it was actually pleaded by the Governors in the great Wilding lawsuit of 1722 though they, or at any rate their Steward and legal adviser, must have known that it was then obsolete.

Clause VIII. orders that the Master and Usher shall teach all alike they shall not “teach one more than other for rewarde or “hope of gaine from the riche.” The school fees down to Wilding’s time and even later were in theory gifts given at Christmas; hence this regulation. Canon Hawtrey of Rimpton told me, that this absurd system lasted at Eton down to Dr. Hawtrey’s time, and Dr. Hawtrey died in 1853.

Clause IX. orders that if any scholar shall resist being corrected by Master or Usher, this scholar shall be presented to the Warden, and if then he does not make proper submission he shall be expelled. If a boy be corrected and his parents or friends object to this, the Warden shall investigate the case, and if he thinks the boy deserved correction then “the scholar “shalbe expelled.”

Clause X. orders that "whereas at the feastes of the birth of  
 "our lord god Easter and pentecost scholemasters doe oft to  
 "break off from scholing and the schollers whose parents and  
 "fryndes dwell from outt this Towne doe oft to repaire to their  
 "dwellinge," School shall cease three days before "every of  
 "the said feasts" and scholars are to return to school "in the  
 "mondaie of that whole weke next after these said feastes."

Clause XI. The Master is to have in addition for his recrea-  
 tion 30 days in each year and the Usher 20 days.

Clause XII. The Master, Usher, and Scholars are to attend  
 the funerals of Governors and Governors' wives.

Statutes of 1650. The School continued under these  
 Statutes till the year 1650, when fresh  
 statutes no doubt of a Puritanical  
 character were ordained, but not a trace of them exists except  
 the bill for engrossing them, which amounted to 25/-.

From 1645 to 1650 owing to the presence of soldiers in the  
 School buildings and to the disturbed state of the country  
 matters must have been in confusion; but from 1650 to 1660 we  
 find the School financial affairs improving rapidly, large  
 balances are put away 'into the chest,' and are not traceable  
 afterwards. The Headmaster, Dr. Birstall, after some long  
 suffering, sued out a commission, under the "Statute for  
 Charitable uses," from the Court of Chancery to investigate  
 this; the Governors retorted by dismissing him and by practi-  
 cally furnishing no accounts at all for the next 10 years. It was  
 this move of Dr. Birstall's, which induced Gilbert Ironside, the  
 new Bishop appointed to the See of Bristol at the Restoration  
 to try whether he could bring the Governors to a sense of their  
 duty.

On the 18th November, 1660, the Governors determined to  
 send a deputation to the Bishop of Bristol with new Statutes

“all ready made for the confirmation of them.” But the Bishop had, it seems, been in communication with the Headmaster, Dr. Birstall, and would not sanction these statutes, but drew up a copy of his own which he recommended to the Governors for their adoption. On the 22nd of August, 1663, a deputation of the Governors again waited on the Bishop, but nothing was settled and the matter dropped. Whether the School continued to be worked under the statutes of 1592 or under the Puritan Statutes of 1650 there is nothing to show. Here however is the Bishop’s account of the matter as reported to Archbishop Tenison (Lambeth Library M.S. 639 fol. 315); he describes the the School as “plentifully indowed with divers Lands Mannors “and hereditaments of a considerable value by the yeare, the “Governors whereof are the chiefe men of that Towne . . . . “These men do lett and sett those lands allowing the Schole- “master and Usher their sallary but doe dispose of the remayn- “der, as them please, they are by their statutes to make orders, “by which the Schoole is to be governed and to pay the Sallery “*cum advisamento Epi Bristoll*, but these late times have taught “them to cast off that yoke, And they being in the peculiar of “the Deane of Sarum, the Bishop of Bristoll hath noe power to “require their obedience, soe they do as they please . . . . Vpon “their entreats I took some paynes to make them school orders, “but they refuse to receive them, because they think those “orders to entrench upon their preprogratives, which I humbly “conceive is worth your graces cognisance.” The Draft of Bishop Ironside’s Orders dated 1663 still exists in the Library; I found it in the end of 1895 tied up with some old law pleadings, where it must have lain undisturbed for over 200 years. It contains the first version of the present school prayer; but, as this Draft is practically embodied in the Statutes of 1679 ordained by the authority of William Gulston, Bishop of Bristol from 1679 to 1684, I had better pass on to consider these statutes which are very full of interest, especially as to the discipline and the studies maintained.

Statutes of 1679. These Statutes were made and established on the 20th of October. 1679; they consist of xxvii clauses, which are almost identical in effect with those which Bishop Ironside proposed.

Clause I. The Master and Usher shall be appointed according to the Charter with the advice of the Bishop of Bristol, *and the salary of each "shall be augmented or lessened as the said Governors by "the advice of the said Bishop of Bristol shall think agreeable to his "meritts and his diligence in the Schoole shall deserve."* This is in accordance with Bishop Ironside's draft.

Clause II. The Master shall be a "Master of Arts well "skilled in the Latine Greeke and Hebrew Languages civilly "educated and well principled in and affected to the Doctrine "and Discipline of the Church of England." And the Bishop of Bristol must be satisfied of "his merits and conversation." This is according to Dr. Ironside's draft. He is to undertake "noe other profession that may divert his diligence and care "from the saide Schoole." And if he does, the Governors *with the advice of the Bishop of Bristol* shall request him to resign his post. This is altogether new.

Clause III. The Usher shall be a "Batchelor of Arts well "skilled in the Latyn and Greeke Languages" and he too shall undertake no profession which may interfere with his school work; the Governors shall appoint him, after the Master and the Vicar of Sherborne have approved his fitness.

Clause IV. is one over which Bishop Ironside and the Governors fought in 1663; it relates to the power of dismissal, and the case of Dr. Birstall is the cause of its insertion here. How the Governors were able for a quarter of a century to resist such an obviously fair restriction of their prerogatives, as they called them, is hard to see. The Clause orders that neither



Master nor Usher shall be disturbed or "molested in the execution of their places or putt out of the same upon slight "occasions or malicious quarrellings" . . . . and further they are not to be dismissed at all without the *Advice of the Bishop of Bristol*. The protection thus given to the Master and Usher is as real in the Statutes of 1679 as in the draft of 1663, though the wording is less peremptory against the Governors.

Clause V. refers to the holidays of the Master and Usher which are the same as laid down in Clause XI. of the Statutes of 1592.

Clause VI. refers to retiring pensions for Master and Usher and to the provision of *locum tenentes* in case of sickness. It is borrowed from Bishop Ironside's Draft.

Clause VII. refers to the "oathes of Supremacy and Association" and comes from the Statutes of 1592; but the Master and Usher are further instructed to teach the Scholars that it is never lawful "for subjects to take up armes ag<sup>t</sup> their Sovereigne "upon any pretence w<sup>t</sup>soever." This addition comes from the Draft.

Clause VIII. directs "that every Schollar that shall bee "admitted into the said Schoole shall pay unto the Schoolmaster "one shilling and sixpence, whereof four pence shall bee for "the Master and four pence for the Usher" and four pence for "Registering and six pence towards the Increase of Bookes in "the Library." Here in consequence of the Investigations of the "Commission for Charitable uses" the Clause numbered vii. in the Statutes of 1592 is abrogated as *ultra vires*. Bishop Ironside's draft also abrogates it. The payment of 6d. for the Library is new.

Clause IX. reenacts Clause IX. of the Statutes of 1592.

Clause X. is taken from Bishop Ironside's Draft and was evidently occasioned by what had passed between Dr. Birstall

and the Governors about the year 1660. The important words run thus: "Also for ourselves and successours wee doe ordaine  
 "and promise that none of the Governors shall alone take upon  
 "them to give play dayes nor confront or controule the Master  
 "or Usher in the Execution of their office nor speake slightingly  
 "of them before any of the schollars to breed in them a careless  
 "neglect or contempt of their Authority." The Draft now goes on to say: "But whatsoever fault or defect shall *by any of the*  
*said Governors and Bishop of Bristoll for the tyme being be thought*  
*fitt to be reformed* in teachers or scholers *shalbe determined by ye*  
*saide Bishopp of Bristoll and Governors.*" The last sentence the Governors successfully resisted and in the Statutes as passed the name of the Bishop of Bristoll is in this regard entirely omitted—this is the one triumph of the Governors. The sentence stands thus in the Statutes of 1679: "But whatsoever  
 "fault or neglect shall by any of the said Governors be thought  
 "*fitt to be reformed in the teachers or schollars shall bee determined by*  
*the said Governors* and declared by the Warden to the Master  
 "and Usher."

Clause XI. reenacts Clause VIII. of the Statutes of 1592.

Clause XII. enacts that every scholar shall come to school at 6 in the morning from the 1st of March to the 1st of October, and at 7 in the morning from thence to the 1st of March following and they shall continue in School till 11 o'clock, the Master allowing them half an hour for their breakfast between 8 and 9 a.m. At 11 a.m. they go to dinner and return at 1 p.m. From the 1st of November to the 1st of February school is to cease at 4 p.m.; from the 1st of February to the 1st of November at 5 p.m. This is in accordance with Bishop Ironside's Draft.

Clauses XIII. relates to the daily prayers and runs as follows:  
 "The Schollars beinge come to the Schoole in the morninge the  
 "Master or Usher or both if att home shall enter the Schoole

“ w<sup>th</sup>in half an hour after Then beginninge w<sup>th</sup> **Te Deum** they  
 “ shall reade the two collects for peace and grace appointed for  
 “ morning prayer, the Lordes prayer, And the Littany twice  
 “ in a weake concludinge w<sup>th</sup> this prayer followeing, And before  
 “ their departure att night they shall sing the **Eighth Psalm**.  
 “ The Usher readinge the Creed w<sup>th</sup> the second and third  
 “ Collects appoynted for the Eveninge prayer in the Church.  
 “ And soe dismisse them w<sup>th</sup> the peace of God &c.

“ **The Prayer.** O mercifull Lord God the ffather of Lights  
 “ from whom alone cometh every good thought word and worke,  
 “ wee blesse and magnifie thy great and glorious name That  
 “ thou didst put it into the heart of thy serv<sup>t</sup> Kinge Edward the  
 “ Sixth of pious memory to found this magnificent schoole wee  
 “ acknowledge it thy goodness That by his meanes we  
 “ are here brought up in good Learninge and true religion  
 “ under watchfull Governours and tutors, we beseech thee holy  
 “ ffather to be gracious to all the p<sup>e</sup>sent Instrum<sup>ts</sup> of this thy  
 “ mercy towards us By name the King’s most excellent ma<sup>ty</sup>  
 “ the right Reverend ffather in God the Bpp of Bristoll The  
 “ Governours Master and Usher of the Schoole Vouchsafe also  
 “ wee bessech thee to all us that are before thee the assistance  
 “ of thy grace that wee may be apt to understand diligent to  
 “ heare careful to rememb<sup>r</sup> ready to obey and practice all  
 “ those wholesome counsells and Instrucons w<sup>ch</sup> from time to  
 “ time shall bee given us That havinge received in ou<sup>r</sup> tender  
 “ yeares the seeds of godlynesse and learninge wee may grow up  
 “ to be profittable members of this flourishing Church and  
 “ Kingdome to the further settinge forth of thy glory. Amen.”  
 The whole of this Clause is borrowed from Bishop Ironside’s  
 draft.

Clause XIV. relates to holidays during Term time and differs somewhat from the Statute of 1592. There is, as before, to be no half-holiday in any week wherein is a Saint’s Day, but there

may be a half-holiday in any week wherein is no Saint's Day but none is to be granted on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. On the eve of every Saint's Day and on Saturday they are to "keep their School and Exercise until evening prayer And then goe to Church" as in the Statutes of 1592. On every Sunday the Scholars are to come to school at 8 a.m. and at 1 p.m. "Spendinge their time in readinge in the Bible, leareninge the "Chatachisme of the Church and giveinge an account of the "Sermons to the Master or Usher untill prayer time Then "from thence they shall goe in good order decently and quietly "to the Church. . . .And in like order returne again to the Schoole and from thence to their homes." This is somewhat fuller than the draft.

Clause XV. orders, that the Master and Usher every Saturday afternoon from 1 p.m. till evening prayer shall teach the Scholars under their several charges, "useinge and explaininge "the 39 Articles professed by the Church of England to the "uppr<sup>r</sup> formes and the Catechisme of the Church established by "law to the lower formes." The clause is the same in Bishop Ironside's draft.

Clause XVI. Day boys are not to be absent from School without their parents' consent 'under their hands'; for boarders the leave of the Master is necessary.

Clause XVII. Holidays shall begin four days before Christmas, three days before Easter and Whitsuntide, and boys shall return on the first Monday after the close of the Feasts.

Clause XVIII. orders that the Master the Usher and the Scholars shall attend the funeral of a Governor, provided he have died of no pestilential disease. It should be noted that there is no mention of a Governor's wife's funeral, as in 1592, and the *proviso* about pestilential disease does not occur in Bishop Ironside's draft.

Clause XIX. is original and probably due to Bishop Gulston:  
 "To the end the Schollars may learne good manners civill  
 "Behaviour and continue therein, It is further ordained That  
 "noe Schollar shall be found alone discourseinge or playeinge in  
 "the Streets alone w<sup>th</sup> the rude boyes of the Towne, w<sup>th</sup>out a  
 "companion one of the Schollars that may be a witness of his  
 "conversation and behaviour under penalty of correction, w<sup>ch</sup>  
 "upon the suggestion of the *prepositor* or others shall bee inflicted  
 "by the Master." No one is to enter Tavern or Ale house nor  
 presume to "play for money att any time" or to go into the  
 water "w<sup>th</sup>out leave of the Master or Usher" or in case of a  
 Dayboy, of his parent so as to "prevent the Danger that often  
 "doth ensue."

The two next clauses are adopted from the draft of Bishop  
 Ironside, and as they are curious I quote them at length.

Clause XX. "It is ordained that the whole Schoole shall bee  
 "divided into six severall formes, whereof three shall bee under  
 "the discipline of the master and three under the Usher. In the  
 "lowest formes under the Usher they shall learne Grammar and  
 "be entered into construc'ons And from thence they shall be  
 "Instructed in such Classicall Authors as shall be thought fitt  
 "by the Master, In the Highest forme the Master shall teach  
 "the Hebrew Grammar and construc'on of that language, if any  
 "be capacitated for it, haveinge first beane instructed in the  
 "latine and greeke In w<sup>ch</sup> languages hee shall enable them to  
 "read the ordinary Classicall Authors by themselves and be  
 "able to understand them."

Clause XXI. "Because the end of this Schoole is to breed  
 "men in Learninge to be profitable members both in Church  
 "and Kingdome And whereas elocuc'on is a necessary qualifi-  
 "cac'on to all publike Employm<sup>ts</sup> It is ordeined that the  
 "Schollars of this Schoole shall be trained up in the practice  
 "of pronuntiac'on by makeinge speeches gracefully without

“booke To that ende the Master shall ev’y day call out one in  
 “theire turnes of the two upper formes To pronounce some  
 “speech out of Curtius Livy Tacitus Ovid Virgill Lucan or any  
 “Ode of Horace or in Greeke out of Zenophon Thucidides or  
 “Homer such as the Schollars themselves shall chuse or the  
 “Master direct, **Provided** it bee of not great length and spoken  
 “in the middle of the Schoole immediately before their departure  
 “from Schoole to dinner” (N.B. Here Bishop Ironside’s draft  
 ends and the rest is Bishop Gulston’s) “w<sup>ch</sup> shall be hansomely  
 “and gracefully performed under the penalty of the Masters  
 “rebuke and disgrace before the rest of the Schollars Also the  
 “Schollars of the upper formes shall declaime upon some  
 “probleme pro and con once every quarter att least.”

Clause XXII. The Master may, if he think fit, before Christ-  
 mas Easter or Whitsuntide holidays “present the Governors  
 “and other Inhabitants with a play or pageant in latine or  
 “English,” but “such playes shall not soe much as savour of  
 “profainnesse scurrillity or Levity But shall observe the  
 “boundes of Christianity and Urbanity.”

Clause XXIII. orders that “once att the beginninge of ev’y  
 “month the Schollars of the two upper formes especially shall  
 “have gramaticall Disputations opposeinge one another in hard  
 “words and criticisms ev’y one haveinge lib’ty to propose his  
 “question And accordinge to theire excellenge one another to  
 “merritt theire Masters favour in advanceinge them to a higher  
 “place or some times to obteyne of him a playday or any other  
 “way hee shall thinke fitt for theire further Encouragem<sup>t</sup>.”

Clause XXIV. Boys in the Upper School are to speak  
 nothing but Latin in School and also out of School, wherever  
 they shall meet, under pain of the severest correction.

Clause XXV. provides a most curious device for carrying out  
 Clause XXIV.; there shall be it says “a **Custos** (w<sup>ch</sup> shall bee

“ a place of reproach and subject to greater punishment for  
 “ smaller faults then others) to observe those that shall speake  
 “ in English to their felowes And to acquaint the Master by  
 “ w<sup>ch</sup> meane hee shall be released from that office w<sup>ch</sup> is to be  
 “ undertaken by the Accused w<sup>th</sup> suche other punishment as the  
 “ Master shall thinke fitt to inflict. And hee shall continue in  
 “ that place of Disgrace till hee shall finde another in the same  
 “ fault, whoe is to be dealt withall as before expressed.”

Clause XXVI. lays down regulations for the Monitorial system ; there are to be four prepositors appointed by the Master, “ **One** for discipline in the Schoole, to see all the  
 “ Schollars demean themselves regularly there. **The Second**  
 “ for manners both in the Schoole and abroad any where. **The**  
 “ **Third** for the Church and Fields. **The Fourth** to be **ostiarus**  
 “ to sitt by the doore to give answer to strangers and keepe  
 the reste from runinge out.” Every morning at the Master’s  
 first coming into School these prepositors are to present him  
 in writing in Latin the several faults with the names of the boys  
 offending the day before, which papers so left with the Master  
 shall be a sufficient testimony.

Clause XXVI. ordains that there shall be a private Scrutiny  
 twice every year on the Wednesday before Palm Sunday and on  
 the Wednesday before All Saints Day or in a day or two of  
 those times, in the manner following : “ the Warden of the  
 “ Schoole, w<sup>th</sup> three others of the Governours of the saide Schoole,  
 “ Shall call before them in the library The Master Usher and  
 “ Schollars of the foure highest formes sev’ally and apart : from  
 “ whome they shall receive private informac’on from ev’y one  
 “ of all offences either agt the orders of the Schoole or other  
 “ misdemeanours committed by the Master Usher or Schollars  
 “ in relac’on to the Schoole, which Offences soe communicated  
 “ to the Warden and Governours shall bee exhibited to the  
 “ whole Assembly of the Governours of the Schoole to be

“ Judged accordinge to the meritt of the Offences beinge  
“ ag<sup>t</sup> them.”

Clause XXVII. The Headmaster is responsible for the good estate of the Library.

There is no trace in the Governors' Minute Book of the Exercise of the Visitorial powers given under Clause XXVI., nor have we any means of learning about the game of forfeits which the successive *Custodes* must have played ; these rules are not stranger than others, which we find in other Old Schools. It should also be noticed that attendance at Communion is no longer insisted on as a Test, as it was in 1592.

Statutes of Christopher Wilson Bp. of Bristol 1783-1792	The next body of Statutes was made by and with the advice of Christopher Wilson, Bishop of Bristol ; the MS. of them is not dated, but we have a printed copy dated 1799. I think these statutes must have been made shortly after Mr. Cutler's appointment to the Head- mastership in 1790. It is very unlikely that any move of any sort was made during the later years of his predecessor Mr. Bristed, and since Christopher Wilson died on the 13th of April, 1792, we may fairly certainly assign to these statutes the date 1791.
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Clause I. Election of Master and Usher as in the statutes of 1679.

Clause II. Qualification of Master as in the Statutes of 1679 ; but here it is specially stated that the Headmaster may be “ a Minister of the Church of England,” and he need not know Hebrew.

Clause III. Qualification of Usher as in the Statutes of 1679 ; but the Usher may be “ a Minister of the Church of England.” As a matter of fact only two Ushers have been laymen so far as is known, and probably only three Headmasters.



Clause IV. Dismissal of Master and Usher, as in the Statutes of 1679.

Clause V. As to holidays :—The “ Master and Usher (except the holidays given at the usual feasts) shall not be absent more than two days at any one time without giving the Warden notice ; they shall not both be absent at the same time.” As to sickness or retiring pension, as in the Statutes of 1679.

Clause VI. As to Oathes, loyalty &c. as in the Statutes of 1679.

Clause VII. As to Scholar's discipline reenacts Clause IX. of 1679 and 1592.

Clause VIII. As to Governors' behaviour to Master and Usher reenacts Clause X. of 1679.

Clause IX. As to teaching all Scholars alike reenacts Clause XI. of 1679 and Clause VIII. of 1592.

Clause X. deals with School times and enacts merely this, “ that every Scholar shall come to the School by seven o'clock in the morning.”

Clause XI. enacts that “ The Master or Usher shall use the following prayers in School for the morning and evening service, only changing in the evening the Third Collect for Grace for the Third Collect for Aid against all Perils : The General Confession, the Lord's Prayer, the Third Collect for Grace, the General Thanksgiving, the Prayer of S. Chrysostom ” and the School Prayer exactly as it is given in the Statutes of 1679, except the spelling.

Clause XII. deals with holidays in term time. There is no provision for the observation of Saints' Days but there is the vague charge “ that all Scholars shall regularly attend their Church and at all times either the Master or Usher shall go

with them." The Master shall grant such play-days as he shall deem proper and necessary.

Clause XIII. The Master and Usher shall teach and instruct the Scholars "in the Catechism and explain the doctrine and "discipline of the Church of England as by law established to "those who are of a capacity to receive such instruction.'

Clause XIV. as to absence from School reenacts Clause XVI. of 1679.

Clause XV. forbids Scholars to frequent alehouses and taverns; the Master, "to prevent as much as possible all "inducements to disorderly behaviour among the Scholars, "shall have the gates of the School yard shut from the 29th of "September to the 25th of March by 6 o'clock in the evening, "and from thence to the 29th of September by 8 o'clock in the "evening, and suffer none to go out into the town after that "time without his leave first obtained." At any time of breaking up the School the Master may present a play or pageant in Latin or English.

Clause XVI. enacts that the Warden and any two Governors shall from time to time investigate the condition of the School, its Master Usher and Scholars and its fabric, and report to the Governors.

Clause XVII. enacts that the Headmaster shall take charge of the Library as in Clause XXVII. of 1679.

Clause XVIII. enacts "that the Governors shall have full "power and authority to grant exhibitions to such boys as they "shall think fit, removing themselves from the said School to "one of the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge." The value of these exhibitions was to be £20 a year and they were to be given for 4 years. These Exhibitions were not given till 1826 owing to the fact that the Rents did not increase so rapidly as was expected, and they were abolished in 1837 as infringing the *general* benefit of the endowment.

Statutes of 1827. The Statutes of 1827 were drawn up by and with the advice of Robert Gray Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol and with a view to strengthening the hands of Dr. Lyon, who was elected Headmaster in 1823.

Clause I. Election of Master and Usher as in Clause I. of 1679 and 1791.

Clause II. Qualifications of Master as in Clause II. of 1679 and 1791.

Clause III. The Master shall undertake no profession, in addition to that of Master, except that of a Minister of the Church of England.

Clause IV. The course or plan of instruction shall be "left entirely to the judgment of the Master."

Clause V. Qualifications of the Usher: he shall be a Bachelor of Arts of Oxford or Cambridge, well skilled in the Latin and Greek Languages; his "sufficiency therein and his conformity to the present Government both in Church and State together with his laudable conversation, being certified to the Governors by satisfactory testimonials." He is to produce to the Governors the Visitor's approbation of his merits. And now for the first time Assistant Masters are recognised as part of the staff; it is laid down that the Master may call in Assistants to aid in the teaching of the School, "provided that such Assistant Masters exhibit to the Governors, if required, a satisfactory testimonial of their ability of their laudable conversation and conformity to the present Government in Church and State."

Clause VI. "The Schoolmaster and Usher shall not absent themselves from their respective duties in the School."

Clause VII. refers to the payment of Master and Usher, and in cases of sickness of Master or Usher, reenacts Clause VI. of 1679.

Clauses VIII. IX., as to Master or Usher resigning or being dismissed and as to Retiring Pension, reenact previous Statutes.

Clause X. The Master and Usher are to take the Oath of Allegiance as well as the Oath of Association which is somewhat altered from the old Form. I shall give the old Form later.

Clause XI. relates to Free Scholars—children living in Sherborne being exempted from fees as in the Statutes of 1592.

Clause XII. reenacts Clause IX. of 1791, as to teaching all alike.

Clause XIII. reenacts Clause X. of 1791.

Clause XIV. reenacts Clause XI. of 1791, but an alternative School prayer is added :

“ O Almighty God, whose providential care is most abundantly  
 “ shown in the protection of the weakest of thy creatures,—we  
 “ beseech Thee to bless all children, especially these Scholars  
 “ here present ; preserve them O Lord from ignorance and  
 “ negligence, from a wandering head and trifling spirit, from all  
 “ violence of passion, from all intemperance and irregularity  
 “ whatsoever ; grant them health of body and strength of mind,  
 “ understanding to apprehend and memory to retain what is  
 “ taught them ; and grant them, more especially, as the  
 “ foundation of other virtues, the inestimable virtue of veracity.  
 “ Grant unto us all, by the help of Thy Holy Spirit, to have a  
 “ right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in His  
 “ holy comfort. Finally we beseech Thee to maintain all those  
 “ Schools and Scholars that are the seed of Thy Church, and  
 “ direct their studies to the great ends of their creation—the  
 “ advancement of Thy glory, the benefit of mankind and the  
 “ salvation of their own souls. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus  
 “ Christ’s sake, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.”

The Original Prayer of Bishop Ironside’s draft is also given but more nearly in the form in which it is now used : those

who know the old as well as the present form of this prayer know that the differences are very slight.

Clause XV. ordains two Vacations, viz. at Midsummer and Christmas of five (altered into six) weeks each; play days during School term shall be at the Master's discretion.

Clause XVI. Scholars are to be instructed in the Catechism and doctrines and discipline of the Church of England.

Clause XVII. The Master shall have the charge of the Library.

Clause XVIII. Four Exhibitions of £60 per annum each for four years are established for Boys *on the foundation* going to either of the Universities but a boy must have been on the foundation four uninterrupted years.

Clause XIX. Exhibitioners shall be elected in the first or second week in June by the Governors, on the report of the Headmaster, after Examination held by a person or persons appointed by the Governors.

Clause XI. and XIX. are *ultra vires*, because they created *privileged* persons at the expense of the *general* benefit of the endowment.

Statutes of 1851. The Statutes of 1851 put forth with the sanction of James Henry Monk Bp. of Gloucester and Bristol were mainly, in so far as they differ from earlier Statutes, the work of Dr. Harper; they continued in force till the 16th of May, 1871, when the new scheme, drawn up in consequence of the Endowed Schools Act of 1869, came into force.

Clause I. declares that instruction shall be given not only in Greek and Latin, but also in French Mathematics Arithmetic English Literature and Composition, Sacred and Profane History, Reading and Writing and such other Sciences and

Languages as the Governors shall from time to time ordain ;  
 “for these studies, which are optional, reasonable charges  
 “may be made by the Governors.”

Clause II. The Method of Instruction, the School Times and the Discipline shall be in the hands of the Headmaster, subject to the control of the Governors.

Clause III. All Scholars shall be instructed in the Catechism Doctrines and Discipline of the Church of England, and they and all Masters shall attend the services of the School Chapel.

Clause IV. The directions for Morning and Evening Prayer are the same as in the Statutes of 1827.

Clause V. All boys over 8 years of age, who live in Sherborne and can read and write, shall, with the special permission of the Governors, be admitted on the foundation, they shall be taught Latin and Greek free, but pay for all other studies. This was a weak but perhaps politic concession to the usurpation of 1827.

Clause VI. A Register shall be kept of the admission and leaving of all Scholars ; and quarterly accounts taken of all fees received.

Clause VII. A fund shall be established called the “ Prize and Exhibition Fund,” to consist of the foundation fees to be paid to the Warden by the tablers (boarders) under Clause XIV., and of the payments made by the foundationers for *optional* studies after providing for the stipends of extra Masters ; and also of such a sum as the Governors shall from time to time see fit to add from the Endowment.

Clause VIII. The Governors shall provide annually from this Fund two medals of the value of £5 each to be called “ King’s Medals ” for Classics and Mathematics, also Prizes of Books. Out of this Fund also shall come the Exhibitions

which were created by the Statutes of 1827. (This is worth observing ; Dr. Harper was keensighted enough to discover that the Statute of 1827 on this head was *ultra vires*. The Exhibitions were now opened to all boys whether boarders or foundationers.)

Clause IX. Examiners shall be appointed yearly from Oxford or Cambridge, who shall report on the work of the School and on the candidates for the Exhibitions to the Universities.

Clause X. The Headmaster shall have charge of the Library ; and a sum not exceeding £30 may be annually applied towards the support and increase of it out of the income of the Endowment. (The Library now receives nothing from the Endowment ; its income is derived from a rate levied on Masters and Boys).

Clause XI. The Governors shall appoint Master and Usher, whose Qualifications shall be the same as of old. The Master shall appoint Assistant Masters as under the Statutes of 1827.

Clause XII. The Headmaster Usher and Assistant Masters shall all take the Oathes of Allegiance and Association.

Clause XIII. The Headmaster is to receive a capitation fee of £6 per annum for each scholar—" provided always that he " shall not receive more than £300 per annum in respect of " foundationers, of whatever number they may be."

The Usher or Lower Master is to receive a capitation fee of £4 per annum for each foundationer, but he is not to receive more than £200 in all from this source ; Assistant Masters are to receive such a capitation fee as the Governors may direct.

Clause XIV. The Headmaster and Lower Master shall receive Boarders ; and so may such Assistant Masters as the Governors permit. All boarders shall pay such foundation fees as the Governors shall ordain, also a capitation grant of £6 per annum to the Headmaster.

Clause XV. Assistant Masters appointed in consequence simply of increase in the number of boarders shall be paid entirely by charges made on Boarders.

Clause XVI. No Master whatever shall undertake any additional profession or employment but that of a Minister of the Church of England ; nor shall he have any cure of souls without express assent in writing of the Governors.

Clause XVII. The Governors may require the Head Master, Lower Master or any Assistant Masters to occupy such dwelling-houses belonging to the School as shall be set apart for that purpose, but the Governors shall be responsible for taxes and repairs of walls, roofs and main timbers.

Clause XVIII. No Master, Lower Master or Assistant Master shall underlet any such premises.

Clause XIX. The Master and the Lower Master shall give six months' notice of resignation ; and should the Governors together with the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol see sufficient cause for displacing either Master or Lower Master, they shall give six months' notice. An Assistant Master shall give or receive three months' notice.

Clause XX. The Master or Usher on retiring from age or infirmity may be assigned a suitable annuity by the Governors with the advice of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol.

On the 10th of August 1854, a conscience clause was added exempting children, whose Parents or Guardians on conscientious and religious grounds objected, from attending either the Religious Instruction in School or the Chapel Services.



The Oath of  
Association,  
Old Form.

The following is the Old Form of Oath  
administered to the Master or Usher  
before he was admitted to office :

“ Yowe shall sweare that as Schol-  
“ master (or Usher) of the ffree Gramer Schole of Kinge  
“ Edwarde the Sixte in Sherborne, To w<sup>ch</sup> office and function  
“ you are chosen, you shall and will to y<sup>r</sup> best knowledge Skill  
“ and endeavour teache instructe and govern the children and  
“ schollers presented and to be presented to y<sup>r</sup> charge in the  
“ same schole as well in good manners as learnynge, accordinge  
“ to the Statutes Rules and Ordynances before this published  
“ and confirmed by the buisshopp of the diocese and hereafter  
“ to bee published and confirmed As yo<sup>r</sup> health of body shall  
“ p'mitt and other urgent occasions shall not enforce the  
“ contrary, soe help you God.”

The Governors' Oath, Old Form.      The Governors' Oath ran as follows :

“ Yowe shall sweare that you shall  
“ and wilbee faithfull and true in thaffaires  
“ and busynes app'teynyng to the ffree gramer schole founded  
“ in this Towne by the late Kinge of moste worthe memorie  
“ Edward the Sixt : And to thuttermoste of y<sup>r</sup> power will and  
“ endeavour you shall doe and be ayding to the furtherance and  
“ encrease of the possessions revenues and gudes of the said  
“ ffree Schole, according to the true intent and meanyng of the  
“ said Kinge his letters patents and the Lawes and Statutes  
“ herebefore made and hereafter to be made consarning the  
“ same (not being contrary to the Lawes and Statutes of this  
“ Realme) The counsels of the said Governours concerning the  
“ affaires of the said Schole you shall well and Truely kepe and  
“ not disclose soe long as you shalbe of this company, Soe help  
“ you God.”

These forms of oath are at least as early as 1590 ; they came  
from the Old Minute Book.

Statutes of 16th May, 1871. The Statutes of the 16th May, 1871, under which the School is now governed are of considerable length and easily accessible.

By them the Visitorial power of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol is transferred to The Crown and exercised only through and by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales. The corporation of the Governors is dissolved; the owner in the eyes of the Law of the School's real estate is now the Official Trustee of Charity Lands; the owners of any stock or other securities are the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds. All other property is vested in the Governors, who are the managers of the whole, subject to the control of the Charity Commissioners. The present Governing Body, then, is not a corporation, but rather in the position of Managers or Managing Trustees.—Managers for that part of the School property, which is not vested in them, Managing Trustees for that which is.

The number of the Governors is 16; of these three are *ex-officio* Governors, viz., the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Dorset or some person named by him to act for him, the Bishop of Salisbury or some person named by him to act for him, and the Vicar of Sherborne. Of the remaining 13, five are Representative Governors; four of these five are elected by the Members of Parliament representing the county and borough constituencies of Devon, Dorset, Somerset and Wilts, one Governor being elected by the county and borough members of each county; each of these Governors holds office for four years, and every year one retires; the order of rotation for retirement is Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wilts, and representatives may be re-elected. The fifth Representative Governor holds office for five years and is elected by the Masters of the School; he may be re-elected. The remaining eight Governors hold office for 10 years, and are Co-optative. A Co-optative Governor is appointed by the other Governors at their first meeting after a vacancy occurs, but no appointment of such a Governor is valid

until the Charity Commissioners have certified their approval of the Choice under their official seal. A co-optative Governor may be re-elected.

The Office of Usher or Lower Master is abolished.

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## CHAPTER IX.

### THE OLD ACCOUNT ROLLS; OLD MINUTE BOOKS; LIBRARY; HEADMASTERS; USHERS.

Account Rolls and Minute Book. The materials for a history of the refounded School, apart from a study of the fabric itself, are the Account Rolls, the Old Minute Books the Statutes and other ancient documents, which are now in the Chest in the Library. The MS. history written by Mr. Toogood about 20 years before the close of the 18th century is worthless for earlier times, and is so disfigured by the bitterest illfeeling for those times which came under his own knowledge, that he cannot be trusted. He was unable to read correctly the older parts of the Old Minute Book, and was thoroughly convinced of his own wisdom and uprightness, and of the rascality of those who differed from him.

I am sure he has been malicious in his picture of Mr. Paget, and though I consider Mr. Bristed the worst Headmaster who ever misguided Sherborne, I think he must have possessed some good qualities, which Mr. Toogood never understood; I shall therefore practically ignore Mr. Toogood's composition. The Account Rolls are full of interesting matter; a very curious chapter in the history of prices might be written from them, another on that strange form of gambling called the life-hold

tenure of property, by which several of the School manors were worked. Another point which forces itself upon ones notice is this, that tenants, who were knights and county gentry, did not think it unfair to try and cheat the corporation of the Governors in more ways than one. But perhaps it would be wiser to pass lightly over these matters, as they would illustrate less the history of the School than the lax views of its tenants and the carelessness of its Stewards; And here I must say most definitely that I am referring to the events of the 17th and 18th centuries.

In the Library are all the Account Rolls from 1553 to 1871, at which date the New Scheme under the Endowed Schools Act came into operation, with the following exemptions; the account for 1559—1560 is lost; no account for 1659—1660, when the quarrel with Dr. Birstall, the Headmaster broke out was ever rendered; no accounts for 1661—1662, 1662—1663, 1663—1664 were ever rendered. The Minute Book states that an account was made for 1664—1665; if so it is lost. No accounts for 1665—1666, 1666—1667, 1667—1668, 1668—1669 were ever made. The Minute Book states that an account for 1669—1670 was made; if so it is lost. With the exception then of eleven years' accounts, eight of which appear to have never been made and three of which are lost, all are here.

The disturbing influence of the civil war is evident in this, that the accounts for 1641—1642, 1642—1643 are presented by the same warden, Henry Durnford, and were not taken till the 20th Dec., 1647; and the same date were taken the Accounts from 1643—1644, 1644—1645, 1645—1646, 1646—1647, and these also were all presented by the same warden, William Sansome; and further the accounts for 1647—1648, 1648—1649 were presented by the same warden, John Chetmill, on the 9th Jan., 1650. During the civil war the "rents of the Shamells" fell into arrears and in the account for 1647—1648 we find

“ Allowance of 7li. 4s. 8d. remitted being old arrears for the rents  
 “ of the Shamells in the time of the warre they being des'put  
 “ and not to be recovered.”

From 1650 to 1659 the affairs of the School progressed steadily and by 1656 more than £760 had been “ put into ye chest ” and Dr. Birstall, who had spent a good deal of his own money on the School, demanded some explanation from the Governors as to the use to which this money was being applied. But that question was never answered by them, or if it was they have carefully destroyed the record of it. However we can guess it was not very satisfactory.

The Governors, instead of answering Dr. Birstall's demand dismissed him from his office, he refused to go and fought them for three years and then retired to the living of Eversley ; that he had the sympathy of his neighbours is evident from the fact that he was made Canon of Wells in 1660. Dr. Gilbert Ironside, Bishop of Bristol, tried as I have already noticed, to lead the Governors back into the right way, but they resisted him too, and, as we know, practically furnished no accounts from 1659 to 1670, in spite of the Commission, issued by the Court of Chancery under the Statute for Charitable Uses, to investigate the way in which they managed the Endowment.

The Governors were brought back from these wanderings by two of their body, Dr. Highmore and Hugh Hodges, both Old Shirburnians and both men of distinction ; for Dr. Highmore was the leading anatomist of his time and Hugh Hodges was Sergeant-at-law, Recorder of Bridport and Member for that borough 1685—1687. It should be remembered that £760 would be equal now-a-days to about £4560, and that the Governors had nothing to show for this sum except the re-building of the Schoolroom in 1670, for which purpose they borrowed £100 equivalent to over £600 now, a sum which would go far towards

paying for the re-building; and further *there is no evidence* in existence how much this re-building cost; it has been apparently suppressed.

From 1553 to 1583 the accounts were kept in English, and this is the general form of the heading of these older accounts.

Sherborne Scole. The Accompte of John Sowthey Warden and recevor of all the rents and revenues of the said scole from the feste of Sayncte Michell tharchaugell in the III<sup>o</sup> & IV<sup>o</sup> yeres of the raigne of our Sovregne lord & lady Philippe and Marie, by the grace of God of Englonde Spayne ffrance both Sicills Jer'lem and Irelonde Kynge and Queene defendors of the ffaythe, Archdukes of Austeriche Dukes of Millayne Burgunde and Brabante Countyes of Haspurge fflanders and Tirolle, until the feste of Sauncte Michell tharchaugell in the IV<sup>o</sup> and V<sup>o</sup> yeres of the raigne of our saide Sov'eigne lord & lady Philippe and Marie that is to saye for one hole yere.

From 1584 to 1619 the accounts were kept in Latin, even the rough drafts being in Latin till 1614; thenceforward they are in English. Roman figures are always used till 1643 in the accounts and till 1629 in the drafts. The accounts are always dated by the regnal years of the King or Queen till we come to that of 1641—1642; after this date the regnal years are not used again till 1709; from that date they are used till 1728, but never afterwards. The general form of the heading of an account rendered in Latin runs as follows :

Sherborne Schola Comptus Eduardi Ponde gardiani  
 Gramaticalis. possession<sup>m</sup> reuenco<sup>m</sup> et bonor<sup>m</sup> lib'e  
 Schole gramaticalis Eduardi nuper Regia  
 Angl<sup>r</sup> in Sherborne A festo Sti Mich'is  
 Arch'i Anno regni Elizabethhe dei gra Angl  
 franc et hibern regine fidei defens' &c.  
 uicesimo septimo usque idem festum Anno  
 regni dic' dne regine uicesimo octauo.

The usual form of all accounts is as follows:

- Receipts.     *a.* Averages *i.e.* balance of last year and arrears  
                   of rents, &c.  
                   *b.* Rents of Assize.  
                   *c.* Improved Rents,  
                   *d.* Profits of Manorial Courts.
- Expenditure. *a.* Rents due to Crown, to Lord of Sherborne  
                   for Shambles, &c.  
                   *b.* Salaries, wages and fees,  
                   *c.* Expenses and Repairs.  
                   *d.* Arrears of rents, &c.

The School fees never appear in these accounts (for they solely concern the endowment and the expenses which are paid out of it) until the times of Dr. Lyon, who introduced the teaching of Mathematics as *optional studies* in 1834; the fees for this teaching was entered in the accounts. Nothing of this sort except Arithmetic had been taught until that time.

The terms *armiger generosus magister* in the Latin accounts are most strictly confined to those who have a real claim to them; so too at first in the English accounts are their equivalents esquire, gentleman, mister; *mister* however begins to be used indiscriminately in the early years of the 17th century, and *esquire* in the early years of the 19th.

There is an entry in the account for 1628—1629 concerning which the last edition of Hutchin's *Dorset*, following Dr. Harper's tercentenary address, has fallen into error. In the Old Minute Book under date 13th Oct., 1629 we find that "the place of Usher being voyde" it is agreed that the salary be increased in order to secure "a very fitt and able man," and "that the Warden and Mr. Josias Coothe his sonne with one other of the "companie shall take them horses and ryde to Oxon there to "find oute an able man by the good commendation of the "Universitye men knowe into us and especially of Mr. Vice "Chancellor and Mr. Lyforde or one of them, and havinge that "approbac'on that the saide warden shall offer him 30li per ann. "The person chosen to be admitted on approbacon only till "good experience be made to his ableness and conversacon and "so accordingly to be chosen ussher." [Mr. Lyford, Fellow of Magadalen Coll.; became Vicar of Sherborne in 1632.] In consequence of this resolution Mr. Richard Coothe and his son Josias rode to Oxon but failed to bring back an Usher. The Usher who had just left at Michaelmas 1629, was Randel Calcott, afterwards D.D. and Rector of Hayes, Middlesex: the Usher who came the following Christmas was John Jacob of Merton Coll: afterwards rector of West Lydford, Somerset; the man who did the work of Usher from Michaelmas to Christmas was Richard Camplyn; already an Assistant Master at Sherborne in 1624. Richard Camplyn left Sherborne for a living near Taunton at Christmas 1629,. The Usher secured therefore was not Camplyn as Dr. Harper thought; he may have been Jacob, but if so why did he not come at once? He was a B.A. of two years standing. Again Dr. Harper calls the Warden Cottle and his son John instead of Josias; the name is Coothe a well-known Sherborne name in the last century when the family owned the Priory, and the name occurs again and again in the School accounts. Mr. Coothe's bill for his journey to Oxford ran thus:



For mine & mye sones and his mans expenses to Oxon to get  
an Usher iii<sup>li</sup>. xi<sup>s</sup>. iii<sup>d</sup>.

For X daies heire of John Raimonds horse that journey x<sup>s</sup>.

The Governors paid "Mr. William Noye"—the Ship-money lawyer—13/4 in 1627 for his opinion concerning the payment of tithe on some estates of the School; the written opinion given by him is in the case in the Library. The Assizes were held at Sherborne in 1604, 1627, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1686, 1688, and 1690. In 1624 we learn from the School Accounts that the Schoolroom was used as the Assize Court and that the King's Statute in it was repainted at a cost of £1 in honour of this.

The spelling is often very choice: *e.g.*, "To *Illerie* for make-inge cleane of the picture in the scole viii<sup>d</sup>." "To the *Herle* of Bristol viii<sup>s</sup>," "128 *Verrboards* at 11<sup>d</sup> a board"; the following account rendered for a dinner eaten by *seven* of the Governors who had been keeping manorial courts at Gillingham, Lytchett and elsewhere, has its merits; the dinner came off at "Shaston" in 1697. The following is the bill, kept as a voucher for their expenditure:

Cheese	6
Bread & beire	10 6
Wine	14 0
Romp of bife, cabig	6 0
Loyn Veal	4 0
2 rabbit	2 0
2 ducks	2 6
Tarts pears costard	1 0
fiere	6
	<hr/>
	£2 1 0
	<hr/>

A hundred years later when, Mr. Peter Batson was Steward the Governors who went to keep Courts had great revels; after one famous dinner at Gillingham the bill for breakfast next morning consists chiefly of charges for Soda-water. This will be found among the vouchers for 1810; but the spelling in these later bills is not so exuberant as it was in the 17th century.

One would have thought from the terms of the Charter that the School Estates would be exempt from feudal aids, but nevertheless James I. extracted money from the Governors under this head; in the Account for 1608—1609 we find “pro auxilio ad faciend principem Henricum militem xx<sup>s</sup>.” in that for 1611—1612 “pro auxilio in Marietando Domine Elizabethe senioris “filie Domini Regis x<sup>s</sup>.” In this way “the young Marcellus” of the house of Stuart and “the Queen of hearts” flit across our scene.

In 1635 the Governors subscribed out of the School endowment £393, out of a sum of £560, (the balance being contributed by the parishoners of Sherborne) with which was purchased from the first Earl of Bristol an annuity of £40 a year, for ever payable out of the Sherborne Estate to the Vicar of Sherborne. This was of course a breach of trust, for the Governors had clearly no right to endow the Vicar out of the School Funds and this the Lord Keeper Coventry had told them the year before, when they consulted him about it; but nevertheless they did it. They salved their consciences however, by covenanting with the Vicar, that he should take part in the Divinity teaching in the School. Thus the parishoners of Sherborne were able to create a small endowment for the Vicar mainly at the charge of the School. This was one of the breaches of Trust, of which Dr. Birstall the Headmaster accused them in 1660.

Some of the property of the School had been subject to two rent-charges, (a) a sum of £6 13s. 4d. to the heirs of

George Anketill (*b*) a sum 5/- to the heirs of Edward Twynehoe, being an old payment due to the prior of Christ Church, Hants. The first of these was redeemed for £120 according to the Account for 1611—1612, the second continued to be paid till 1813, when it too was redeemed. I have already mentioned the extinction of the King's Chief Rent. The lock and key on the Charter Box cost 6d. as appears from the Account Roll of 1622—1623; it is not a good lock. The Rent Charge on the Estate of Lillington of 4 Marks per annum, the gift of Bartholomew Coombe, Esq., by will dated 7 Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1558, is still paid; several times in the history of the School it has been in arrears and from the account of 1671—1672 we learn that the Governors were forced to arrest the Squire of Lillington for non-payment: "By order of the Company to Robert Manning a Bayliffe for aresting John Cole Esq. 10/-."

From the account of 1625—1626 we learn that the Governors purchased a farm at Chilthorne Domer, which has since been sold: as this farm was oftener in hand than any other part of the estates we get to learn more of local taxation from it than from any other source in these accounts. The following sent in by the bailiff in 1697 is good;

Chilthorne 1697

Leid out to the powre rate	06 · 00
p <sup>t</sup> to County bridgs	00 · 08
p <sup>t</sup> to the re pearing of tanton brydwill	00 · 08
p <sup>t</sup> to droms and collers	00 · 04
p <sup>t</sup> to the hy wayes	03 · 00
	00 .. 10 .. 08

Again in the Account 1691—1692 we find "Rec<sup>d</sup> likewise at ye same time for one days muster and requiering of armes the sume

“of £1 3s. 3d. By me Paul Jenys.” This was a large sum to pay on one farm for *Militia* arms. Again we have “Item paid to “Thomas fortt Tything man for Souldiers coats six shillings and “six pence.” All these burdens fell on the *tenants* and we only hear of them when lands are in hand.

The rent for the fairs and markets of Sherborne was paid by the Governors till 1590—1591 to the Bishop of Sarum; from 1592 to 1597 to Sir Walter Raleigh as *Firmarius* of Sherborne, from 1598 to 1608 to Sir Walter Raleigh as *Dominus* of Sherborne, from 1609 to 1624 to the Lord of the Manor, no name being given, from 1625 to 1640 to the Earl of Bristol, from 1641 to 1650 to the Lord of the Manor, for 1650—1651 to Mr. Lodge for the Lords of the Manor (Lord Bristol was now in exile), from 1651 to 1660 to the Lords of the Manor, *i.e.*, to the State; then, as I have already noticed, we have no accounts for ten years; from 1670 onward to the Lord of Sherborne, until in the middle of the 18th century the Governors ceased to manage the Fairs and Markets. It may interest some to learn that in 1730 half-a-pound of tobacco, smoked at an audit, cost 7d.

From 1637 until 1870 there was yearly on S. John the Evangelist's Day a Governors' dinner at the expense of the Endowment. On the 4th January 16<sup>69</sup><sub>70</sub>, as the Minute Book tells us, it was agreed that for the future the warden should always be allowed 4 li. “for ye charge and expense of ye Dinner and wine “at ye Account”; this charge gradually grew till it reached in 1854 £11 11s.; from that date it declined. Most wardens put the charge quite plainly “For a dynner at ye takinge this accompte,” others more politely phrase it, *e.g.* Elias Hosey, gentleman, in 1731 calls it “expenses in passing his accompte.”

After the Restoration come those direct taxes on houses against which the people kicked so hard at first: (*a*) the hearth money

begins in 1672—1673 and ends in 1689; (b) the window tax begins in 1707; (the tax was established in 1697, but the Master probably paid it till 1707); after 1808—1809 all this sort of taxation is massed together in the Accounts under the head of *Assesed Taxes*. The window tax rises from 10/- in 1707 to £1 10s. in 1710, to £1 15s. in 1746, to £2 4s. in 1749, to £3 6s. in 1759, to £4 7s. in 1766, to £4 19s. in 1778, to £10 6s. in 1784, to £30 15s. in 1808.

It should be remembered that this is simply the tax on the windows of the School Buildings; from 1707 to 1801 this tax is increased more than sixty-fold.

We first get a gas rate for lighting the town in 1838—1839, and Gas Fittings are first put into the School in 1840. The iniquitous system of paying for the School-books of foundationers out of the Endowment begins in 1816, but it was immediately stopped by Dr. Harper in 1850. In the year 1844 one hundred and twenty three pounds two shillings were wasted in this way. It must not be supposed that this money went in prizes; foundationers were provided with ordinary School-books, Virgils, Dictionaries and the like, bound in leather. Had this money from 1815 to 1850 been spent on books for the School Library, every Sherborne boy, both then and since then, and generations to come, would have reaped the benefit. The blame must rest with the Governors who individually may have been in pocket by a few pounds through thus avoiding payment for the School-books of their own children. A Headmaster in ordinary times would be powerless to stop such a system, without at any rate for the time creating strong ill-feeling.

A more pleasing *item* appears in the account for 1837 (the voucher is still inside the account roll), which tells us that on the 24th of May the Scholars celebrated Queen Victoria's proclamation by eating cake and drinking port at 40/- a dozen at the charge of the Founder.

Several times during the Commonwealth period the Steward has to go to Dorchester to get a license to travel to London *e.g.*, in 1650—1651: “ Mr. Hugh Hodges going to Dorchester to “gett a license to travell to London and to the messengers to “ two justices 4/4.”

The Test Act of 1673 is felt at once in the account for 1673—1674: “Charges for the Governo<sup>rs</sup> certificates of receiving the “ Sacrament and 12 pence to ye Clarke of the peace for their “ oathes and declaracon required by the late Act of Parliament “ for the suppression of Popery 14/10.”

The Revolution is marked by the following entry in 1688—1689: “ Item of 11/- allowed for ye Warden and Goveano<sup>rs</sup> upon “ their taking ye oathes upon ye late Revolucon p<sup>d</sup> ye Clarke of ye peace.

Frequently throughout the 17th century we find charges made against tenants and others for light money; but in the account for the year 1696—1697, when under William III. the coinage was reformed we find: “ Taken out of ye Chest being clip money 21st Decr.. 1696 14li. 9s. 6d.” and again “ This “ Accomptant is charged with 67li. 14s. 11d. more taken out of the Chest 20th August., 1697, p<sup>t</sup> of it viz., 49li., 13s. 9d. “ being old money by weight at 5s. 2d. ye pounce came to “ 42li. 4s. 5d. ye rest was new money and ginnys soe there was “ lost by ye old money 6li 19s. 4d.”

The great storm of November 1703, *the* storm, “ the only tempest,” as Macaulay says, “ which in this latitude has equalled the rage of a tropical hurricane,” the storm to which Addison compared the battle of Blenheim, has left its mark on the Account Roll of 1703—1704; witness the following entry: “ Item he is charged w<sup>th</sup> 43℥ rec<sup>d</sup> for 35 Tuns of Timber “ w<sup>ch</sup> “ was blown down by the Tempestuous wind on Bradford Farm “ and was by ye order of ye Company sold by Mr. Reynold “ Pond and Mr. John Plowman.”

In the Account Roll for 1708—1709 there is an allusion to the great flood, which is commemorated by a brass in the Church.

In the Account Roll for 1716—1717 there is a charge of 2/6 a head for the Governors taking the oath of allegiance in consequence of the Jacobite Rising. In the same year occurs one of the many charges for mending the lock of the sellar (*sic*) door of the Usher Mr. Butt; this gentleman, who had been Usher since 1695, seems constantly to have been obliged to get a new lock for this part of his establishment.

From the Account Roll of 1732—1733 we find that one of the Governors Baruch Fox spent five days at Wimborne collecting the rents on the Bradford and Barnesly Estates and charged the School £12 12s. for doing so; on being remonstrated with he abated 12/- and was paid the balance!

In the Account Roll of 1749—1750 we find the first notice of a Fire Insurance Policy being taken out by the Governors; the Policy is in the Case in the Library.

In 1775—1776 appears the first charge for advertising in a Newspaper and in 1776—1777 among the vouchers I found the first printed billhead, that of Mr. Thomas Pittard, Ironmonger.

In 1771—1772 the Schoolroom was insured for £500 at an annual premium of 12/- and 7/6 duty; thus the cost of Insuring is increased by Imperial taxation over 60 per cent.

In the vouchers for 1775—1776 we first find receipt stamps; these stamps are impressed on the paper on which the receipt is given and vary in amount according to the amount of the bills. In 1822 the Governors were moved by a laudable curiosity to discover who the original was of the portrait of a "youth unknown" which still adorns the Schoolhouse reading-room;

as good luck would have it, there is a coat of arms painted on the back-ground, which the officials of the Heralds' office in London declared (for a charge of 10/-) to be that of *Smith of Long Ashton, Somerset*. In the same year a certain R. Hawkins cleaned this picture for the sum of £1 12s. 6d.; it appears not to have been cleaned since. I have found no traces of the giver or of the painter of the small oil painting of Edward VI. in the Library. There is however a tradition that this picture was given by Mr. Bristed, Headmaster, 1766—1790. The phrase "King's School" instead of "Sherborne School" is first used in the Account Roll for 1830—1831: it is used however in letters from 1826 onwards: this new phrase must have been due to the same craze which makes people talk about "Sherborne College." The phrase "King's School" is first officially used in an advertisement to be "inserted in the two *Sherborne, Cambridge and Oxford Courier and Times* newspapers four times in each" of the vacancy after Mr. Cutler's resignation, (Order in M.B. 2nd October, 1822,) but in formal Documents it was not yet used, *e.g.* in the Deed of Appointment of Dr. Lyon. During November 1830 two night watchmen were paid 1/6 each a night for 22 nights to sit up "during the Riots," which were occasioned by the introduction of Threshing Machines into this district. In 1852—1853 we first find the Old Blue Penny Receipt Stamps on the Vouchers. In 1854—1855 we get the first appearance of the *Local Board*, which has now changed its name into the finer if less intelligible title of "Urban District Council"; this Body emphasized its appearance by charging the School £101 18s. 7d. for drainage; perhaps we may thus account for an epidemic, which soon afterwards broke out. In 1861 the Conduit, which, as I have already noticed, had been a Reading Room from 1834 to 1847, after being used rent-free for some time as a Police Station, was converted into a Penny Bank at a yearly rent of £1. After a year or two the rent ceased to be paid, a circumstance which leads one to think, that the inhabitants of Sherborne



with superfluous pennies had little faith in the burglar-proof qualities of this venerable relic of the Middle Age.

Library. I shall now leave the Account Rolls and Minute Books and pass to the History of the Library which stretches over a period of about three centuries. The first entry in the Accounts which could refer to a Library will be found in the Roll for 1638—1639: "Payd Richard Miller the Joyner for a presse for bookes standing in "the Chamber over the Hall of the Schoole-house." This might of course refer to the Master's own Library, but the following entry in the Roll for 1639—1640 must refer to books belonging to the School: "To Francis Butt for his work for "placing bookes at the upper end of the Schoole £1 14s. od."

We may come to this conclusion that in 1639 the nucleus of a Library was formed in the Hall of the Schoolhouse and that the overflow of books was placed at the E. end of the Schoolroom in 1640; or we may regard the work of 1639 as done for the Master and we may put the beginning of the Library as being in the Schoolroom the following year.

In 1650—1661 "two Rider's Dictionaries" were bought for the use of the School at a cost of £1 8s. 9d.; in 1654—1655 Mr. Hugh Hodges "laid out at London for bookes for ye Schoole" £13 8s. 4d., and Thomas Miller the bookseller was paid 16/- for another Ridar's Dictionary and Nathaniel Thornton new-bound and mended Cooper's Dictionary for 3/-; in 1656—1657 more bookshelves were made; in 1657—1658 Mr. Richard Newman, an O.S., gave two globes for the Library and £4 1s. 6d. was spent in books which were bound in "redd leather." In 1663 when Dr. Birstall resigns the Mastership, he is to deliver over "the bookes" according to inventory. Such are the traces which the accounts give us of the existence of a Library before 1670. If the tradition that Bishop Jewel gave books is true, there must have been a Library from the earliest days of the refounded

School, and the probable fact that in 1643 the Library overflowed into the Schoolroom suggests a considerable number of books. In 1670—1671 the old Library was rebuilt and we find this entry in the Account Roll for the year “for a Lock and 3 “Keys for the Library doore 15/-”: “For two Gouldman’s “Dictionaries for ye use of the School and for postage from “London £1 2s. od.” In 1675—1676 comes the artistic work of Oliver ffitzjerrard with the “Leafe silver,” and from this date onward the Library grows apace; as I have already stated the books remained in this building till 1861, when they were removed to what is now the Schoolhouse Reading Room. Here they remained till 1880, when they were again removed to the the present Library. In 1679 the Statutes order “that the “Master shall take Charge and care of the Library, Hee shall “not permitt any to goe in that doe any prejudice to ye bookes “or place, Hee shall not suffer any that comes to Reade there, to “cutt out anythinge or any way deface any Booke, Hee shall see “the Names of the Benefact<sup>rs</sup> and Bookes fairly ingrossed in a “Booke for that purpose, And the bookes fastened w<sup>th</sup> convenient “chaines at the charge of the founder, As likewise that the place “and bookes be kept very cleane from dust and filth; the windows “well glazed; for all w<sup>ch</sup> hee shall give an Account to the Warden “at Michass And receive what money hee shall disburse that “way or oftner if need be.” Down to the year 1725 all books in the Library were chained to the shelves except six, five of which were Dictionaries and the sixth described in the Old Catalogue as “A Noble Coll: of Maps, Gift of ye Learned Th: Windham Esq<sup>re</sup>.”

A M.S. catalogue of the Library exists, the date of which cannot be later than 1695 nor earlier than 1694. The first twelve pages of it are blank, on page 13 we get “an account of “the Goods w<sup>ch</sup> doe belong to the Schole” with the date 1695; the Library Catalogue begins on page 14, and is written for the earliest entries all in one hand and the latest

book entered in this handwriting is *Euripides*, *Barnes*, *Cambridge*, 1694. This Catalogue was made no doubt for Mr. Gerard who became Master in 1695 and who would be, as Dr. Birstall was, responsible for the books. This Catalogue was brought "up to date" in 1720, when Mr. Wilding became Master, again in 1733 when Mr. Gaylard succeeded, and again in 1751 when Mr. Hill became Master. It was not touched again till 1807, when on the 8th September Mr. Langdon and the Rev. John Parsons, Governors, examined the Library and found several books missing. A new Catalogue was then made and the whole rebound, about as many leaves being added as were in the original book.

In 1695 there were in the Library: Folios 159, Quartos 94, Octavos 111, total 364 vols.; in 1720 the total was 382 vols.; in 1733 there were 426 vols.; in 1751 there were 439 vols.; on the 8th Sept. 1807, there were only 437 vols., and of these 29 vols. were missing on the 1st March, 1894. There were in November 1895 over 5,300 vols. in the Library, and in February 1902 over 6000 vols. According to *Hutchins' Dorset* the Warres of Hestercomb were benefactors to the Library and so also was the Hon. Henry Thynne according to *Harston's Handbook of Sherborne*, but I can find no trace of their gifts; Sir Philip Sydenham of Brimpton gave Tonson's *Virgil*, Cambridge, 1701; Tonson's *Catullus*, *Propertius*, *Tibullus*, Cambridge, 1702; Tonson's *Terence*, Cambridge 1701; Tonson's *Horace*, Cambridge 1699; all of these are handsome volumes. The Hon. Robert Boyle, who was our neighbour at Stalbridge was also a benefactor, according to *Hutchins*: his gifts I think I have succeeded in identifying. Robert Boyle was a connection and a great friend of Arthur Annesley, 1st Earl of Anglesey, and the Library owns five books which belonged to this nobleman and contain his autograph: these books I think Robert Boyle must have given. Boyle was not only a great Chemist but a keen student of the Bible and a great promoter of mission work; in 1661 he

was made first Governor of the " Society for the propagation of the Gospel in New England "; this Society published in 1661 the New Testament in the Red Indian Language (in a dialect of it now extinct), and in 1663 the Old and New Testament in the same Language, and it is my belief that Robert Boyle gave the copies of these books, which are now in the case in the Library. He also gave, I believe, the copy of Bedel's Irish Old Testament, London, 1685; towards the publication of which book he was a generous subscriber. Another great benefactor was the Rev. Richard Goodridge,, a man mighty in the Semetic tongues; he was a native of Culham, Devon, and apparently an Old Shirburnian; he was a fellow of Wadham Coll., Oxon and Rector of Combhay, Somerset; his books were placed in the Library in 1694. In 1680 a certain Mr. Jeffreys of London gave some books as is evident by the bill for the carriage of them; but except *Poli Synopsis*, London 1669, they cannot be identified. The fine copy of *Guillim's Display of Heraldry*, London 1679, was given by the third Earl of Bristol; *Clarendon's Great Rebellion*, Oxford 1704, by William Lord Digby; the really splendid copy of *Matthew Paris*, London 1571, by Hugh Hodges, an Old Shirburnian; many of the great books of the 17th century are here, the works of Selden, Anthony Wood, Du Cange, the Delphin Classics, the works of Meursius, Gataker, Baxter, Valckenaer, G. and J. Voss, Barclay, Bacon, Buxtorf, Sanderson, Ogilby, Sir Robert Cotton, Rushworth, Hooker, Raleigh, Spelman, Dugdale, Fuller, and others. There are many works too of the 16th century but none earlier.

The oldest book in the old Library is an Aldine *Euripides* given by H. de Rougemont, O.S. (Venice 1503) and next to it comes *Horatii Opera, Ascensius*, Basel, 1519; the most remarkable book is six vols. of old music containing six complete works, each volume consisting of the parts to be sung by a particular voice, bound together for the sake of convenience. Of two of these works the copy in this Library is the only complete

copy known to exist. There is also a copy of the *Cyropaedia* which belonged to Charles Wesley and contains his autograph, and a copy of Wyttenbach's *Plutarch* which contains Samuel Parr's autograph. There is also William Beckford's copy of the Greek Testament printed by Robert Stephen at Paris in 1550, and the 'King of Spain's Bible,' a Polyglot in 8 vols., bound in vellum with metal clasp, printed by Christopher Plantin, Antwerp 1569 — 1572. Until recent years the additions to the Library have been made somewhat by fits and starts; from 1675 to 1731 a large amount of money was spent on it; after that little was done till the Mastership of Dr. Lyon, who between 1824 and 1830 induced the Governors to spend considerable sums. Little was done after that till Dr. Harper introduced the present system of a small terminal rate. The latest benefactor was Alexander Longmuir, who gave his books and pictures, and £300 out of his legacy to the School was spent mainly on Books of Art Theology and History. The Arundel Society's reproductions of Old Italian Masters' paintings were given by the Rev. E. M. Young. In the way of MSS. the Library possesses the Charter of 1550, the Account Rolls, the Old Statutes, the Old Minute Books of the Governors 1592—1850, and various Ancient Deeds; not a single book belonging to the Monastery is, so far as we know, in the Library; and it is very unlikely that we shall ever recover what Haddan and Stubbs describe as "the splendid Sherborne Pontifical called Dunstan's," which is now in the National Library at Paris. There is a Ledger Book of Sherborne Abbey in the Cottonian Library at the British Museum, but that too is not likely ever again to come to Sherborne. Many old bills for books still exist among the vouchers and one dated "London, June 28th, 1687" from Robert Clavell, a well-known bookseller of the day, ends with a note to the Warden to whom he encloses a News Letter; he adds "Sr you may perceave by ye enclosed how ye world goes . . . I was told "that there was only two Bpps at ye consecration of ye Bp of

“St. Davids w<sup>ch</sup> the Gazet mentioneth, ther could be no less “and never was yer the like I believe.” It was then a bad time for the Church of England. The amount of this bill was £95 16s. 7d., which meant a very handsome addition to the Library. Of the 18th century there are not many original editions of works; the best are Johnson’s Dictionary, 2 vols., London, 1755; Pope’s Iliad, 2 vols., London, 1715—1718; Pope’s Odessey is there too, but mutilated; Artificial Electricity, Beccaria, 1776; Robert Boyle’s Works, ed. Birch London 1744. The charm of the Library, however, is not that it is such a good one—it might easily have been better—but that, like the British Constitution “it was not made but grew”; here we have in the old bindings, looking much as they must have looked to the eyes of their authors, rows of books from the 16th century down to the present time, books which generation after generation of men and boys have used here, some of them well, some ill, with here and there a note or a sketch not always without its point or interest.

Masters. I propose to say something about the Masters of Sherborne School. Of the first eight Headmasters of the refounded School we really know scarcely anything but their names; but about the 9th we do know a little. Mr. William Wood of B.N.C. Oxon. was a Hereford man and came of a good old stock there; he is one of the few Sherborne Headmasters who have been a layman. I think Mr. Delabere, Master in 1565, was a layman, and I know Mr. Goodenough, Master 1670—1683, was; but I know of none beside. Mr. Wood was appointed to Sherborne in 1581 and resigned his post in 1601; in an order to him to draw some money for which he is to give a receipt, he is described as a *gentleman*; had he been a clergyman, he would have been called *clerk*. He possessed property at Hermitage, in this County, which he left by will to the Almshouse of Sherborne, he was also a benefactor of the poor of Hereford.

Concerning his resignation and the appointment of his successor, the Rev. John Geare, there exists in the oldest Minute Book the copy of a letter which the Governors sent to Mr. Secretary Cecil on the 2nd May, 1601; Mr. Secretary Cecil and Sir Walter Raleigh had both recommended the Governors to elect Mr. Geare in Mr. Wood's place. The letter, which is in answer to one from Sir Robert Cecil, runs as follows :

“ Right honorable : O<sup>r</sup> humble duties unto y<sup>r</sup> ho ; premised,  
 “ It maie please the same to bee remembered Having an intent  
 “ (uppon good causes) to remove Mr Woodd o<sup>r</sup> Scholemaster  
 “ from his place ; being soe made known unto him he was  
 “ contented to d<sup>p</sup>te at Cristmas last And afterwards uppon  
 “ further advise with him selff desiered our Lady daie following  
 “ and it was graunted him In the mean time (amongst others)  
 “ M<sup>r</sup> John Geare offred his s<sup>v</sup>ice to the place, bringing with  
 “ him good testymonye of his lyfe learnyng and zeale in Religion  
 “ frome his Colledge in Oxford approved by like testymonye  
 “ frome Wymborne where he was then Scholemaster as also by  
 “ lres from sondry Knyghts and gents of accompte of this shire  
 “ And at the tyme of election made known brought unto us y<sup>r</sup>  
 “ hon : lres w<sup>h</sup> to us confirmed all. In duetiful regard of w<sup>h</sup>  
 “ and for that of all the others he was most emmynent in yeres,  
 “ degree in learnyng and approved in teaching And we bound  
 “ by ye statutes and oathes for the best advancemt of the Schole  
 “ and learnyng therein to discharge o<sup>r</sup> dueties to the Kinge of  
 “ of moste worthie memorye Ed. the Sixt sole founder thereof  
 “ Whereof wee are made Governors by his graces lres patents  
 “ made choice of the said M<sup>r</sup> Geare and contracted w<sup>th</sup> him to  
 “ take charge of the said Schole at o<sup>r</sup> Lady daie last At w<sup>h</sup> tyme  
 “ Geare brought wt him an approbacon of his lyfe and Learnyng  
 “ from my Lo: of Caunterbury w<sup>th</sup> his graces autoritie  
 “ generally to teach in all his dioces and p<sup>t</sup>icularly by name in  
 “ the free Schole of Sherborne wee presented him thereunto  
 “ But the same was denied by Woodd. In fyne by his entreaty

" w<sup>th</sup> Geare and by giving him bond in a good some to deliver  
 " Geare the house and Schole at Mydsomer next Wood holding  
 " it untill that time and soe thaie both agreed ffor w<sup>ch</sup> tyme  
 " Geare being voyde of his former place like good to this is  
 " enforced to rent a house in this Towne to staie him selff famly  
 " and schollers gents scennes of accompt and others w<sup>ch</sup> he  
 " brought w<sup>t</sup> him All w<sup>ch</sup> receyved in y<sup>r</sup> most ho: consideracon  
 " we trust will bee accepted of y<sup>r</sup> ho: as of o<sup>r</sup> duetifull regards  
 " to y<sup>r</sup> ho: first letters And therein no lesse considerate to the  
 " publicke utilitie of the Schole according to the teno<sup>r</sup> of yo<sup>r</sup> ho:  
 " last letters Soe humbly thank yo<sup>r</sup> ho: in leaving us to that  
 " choice wherein we truste not to bee founde iniurious in the  
 " remove of Woodd nor inconsiderate in placing Geare And  
 " therein as in all o<sup>r</sup> other procedinges concerning the same  
 " Schole wilbee mcst ready and willing at y<sup>r</sup> commands to  
 " render further accompte Soe humble praie y<sup>r</sup> ho: (yf soe wee  
 " deserve) to patronize theis and o<sup>r</sup> further actions of the said  
 " Schole soe farr forthe as thaie shall stand w<sup>th</sup> the advancement  
 " of learnynge and the discharge of o<sup>r</sup> duties w<sup>th</sup> a good  
 " conscience. We shalbee bound ever to praie to the almyghtie  
 " god to contynue yo<sup>r</sup> ho: health long lyfe and encrease of muche  
 " hono<sup>r</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> ho: most ready at command The Governors of  
 " the said free gramer schole. Sherborne this 2 of maie 1601."

No quotations from this letter would have done it justice; it deserved to be given *in extenso*.

Mr. Balch, who was Master 1641—1653, came from Ringwood; he was paid no salary from 1643 to 1647, and a bill of his still exists in which he sums up the arrears due to him; very probably he did little teaching during this time as the School was then used as a barrack by the troops of the Parliament, and the Schoolroom was the "Court of Guard." His successor was Dr. Birstall, of whom I have already said something.



John Goodenough, Master 1670—1683 “practised physick” as well as taught boys; at least so the Governors alleged. He came from Ilminster and must have been a man of ingenious mind as well as of advanced political views; he made, it will be remembered, the Chronogram. He was ejected 1683 for taking part in Lord Shaftesbury’s Exclusion Plot. The following letters of Lord Bristol throw some light on this:

These For the Governours of the free School of King  
Edward the 6th In Sherborne.

Gentlemen

Sherborn Lodg. 1. August 1683.

Understanding that you have appointed a meeting this day to regulate matters relating to the free School of Sherborne I have thought fitt to send this to put you in mind of what the Bishop of Bristol lately recommended to me and some of you as appears by a writing under his Lo<sup>d</sup>s<sup>ps</sup> hand and seal, viz., That you speedily give notice to Mr. Goodenough that he leave the said Schoole at Michaelmas next and that you chuse a Loyal man in his place, for that being a Royal foundation and so well endowed, It were a pitty any but a Loyal man should enjoy it and have the benefit of it which entirely was the Intention of the Royal Founder, And Mr. Goodenough by his siding and associating himself with dissenters and factious people (not to mention his relations in the plott with whom doubtless he holds a correspondence) that he cannot be thought by any reasonable man a fitt person to hold any longer the place of Master of the said School. And therefore If you are not prae engaged, I have thought fitt to recommend to your choice Mr. Curgenven of Blandford, whose fittnesse for the place is well known, by the many able schollars he has sent to the university And so leaving these things to your consideration, I rest, gentlemen,

Your Affectionate friend

Bristol.

These For the Governors of the School in Sherborne.

Gentlemen

Sherborne Lodg. 8 Octob. /83.

I have thought fit by this to mind you of a former recommendation I made you of one Curgenven to succeed in the School—The great Character which the Bishops of Gloucester and Bristol, and many other gentlemen gave of this gentleman unto me Induced me to appear on his behalf, what you do for him will be taken very kindly from you by, S<sup>rs</sup>, your Affectionate friend

Bristol.

His Lordship writes an excellent hand and signs himself in letters varying from an inch to half-an-inch in height.

The following letter from Mr. Curgenven is also not without interest :

To the Worthy Governors off the free Schole off Sherburn..

Worthy Gentlemen.

I have some reason to believe y<sup>t</sup> at present (by the recommendati<sup>n</sup> of some worthy men for whom I have a great veneration) I may be in y<sup>r</sup> thoughts to succeed as Master of ye Schole. If so I gratefully respect y<sup>r</sup> kind intentions, and am ready to wait on you ffor a farther conference as you shall appoint. It is not (Blessed be God) a necessitous ffortune that makes me hungry after more, nor want of kindness that makes me uneasy; And as to the latter I must all ways own that the Genius of Blandfard hath been still charming to me. So that to make me remove, profitt is not the main inducem<sup>t</sup>, but the assurance that I have of a Loyall and ffree conversation among you, as well as a unanimous concurrence w<sup>th</sup> my endeavours to gain a number to that Nursery, whose fame for some years hath been loud ffor nothing but Salary. As to my Stipulation, to omitt all other Arguments, the tender respect y<sup>t</sup> I must have to the honour of those persons

y<sup>t</sup> are engaged ffor me, must persuade, that nothing shall be wanting on my part towards a vigorous and faithfull discharge of all that can be expected ffrom y<sup>r</sup> Most Obliged servant

THOS. CURGENVEN.

Blandford: Aug: 13th 1683.

The following is the entry in the Old Minute Book relating to the ejecting of Mr. Goodenough: "5th Oct. 1683. This Day ye "Former order for ye Ejection of Mr. Goodenough stands confirmed And for these Reasons following amongst others "Hereafter to be menconed as there shall be occasion 1. For "Severall Abuses to ye Governours. 2. For Severall wordes "spoken agt ye Government and for being disaffected thereunto. "3. For Standing indicted at ye time for Several missdemeanours "agt ye Government."

So Mr. Goodenough disappeared and on the 12th Oct. 1683 Mr. Curgenven was elected in his place; what the result of the indictment of Mr. Goodenough was I have never discovered. His misfortune was that he was five years in advance of his time. He had been active in forwarding the *Petition* for the calling of a Parliament, as we learn from a draft accusation of him which still exists, drawn up apparently by one of the Governors, but not signed or dated. This draft is interesting, for we may infer from it that the Bishop of Bristol was not altogether on the side of the Governors, who were actually now trying to get rid of the Statutes, which they had accepted from the Bishop only four years before, on the ground that they are hindered in their government by "the clogg of the Byshops negative voyce in o<sup>r</sup> "elections of M<sup>r</sup> and Ussher never granted him by patent nor "claymed before." The defeat of Lord Shaftesbury's Exclusion Scheme was fatal to Mr. Goodenough, and no doubt the Bishop of Bristol did not venture any further to support him against the Governors and probably did not sympathise with his political views, or if he did he did not dare show it then. It appears also, from this document that owing to the *Petitioner* views prevalent in

Sherborne School at this time boys had been withdrawn and sent to "Winchester School," where doubtless *Abhorrer* views prevailed. The moral to be deduced from all this is that it is inexpedient to be too clear-sighted, to be before one's time. Sherborne School owes at least one debt of gratitude to Mr. Curgenven, Mr. Goodenough's successor; for it was by his "Advise and Direction" during his term of office that so many fine 17th century books were added to the Library.

For the next Master, Mr. Gerard, 1695—1720 let his epitaph once visible in Sherborne Abbey speak:

D.O.M.S.

Sub hoc lapide beatam resurrec' praestolatur  
 R. doct' vir Georgius Gerardus,  
 Ecclesiae de Church Stanton, apud Devon', Rector,  
 Scholaeque lib' Sherborn. per XXV. annos Moderator,  
 Pietate, Prudentia, Sedulitate et Clementia,  
 Egregia sacrarum et humanar' literar' scientia,  
 Graecarum mirabili prorsus et prope singulari,  
 Clarissimis sui ordinis luminib' comparandus.  
 In omni vitae statu moribus plane aureis,  
 Modestus, beneficus, sine fastu felle aut fuco,  
 Omnib' amori et exemplo, sed paucis imitabilis.  
 Tandem vero laborib' et aetate jam caelo matura,  
 Viribus sensim labantibus demum absumptis,  
 Animo tamen ad spem salutis per Christum erecto,  
 Pie placideque, uti vixerat, desiit vivere,  
 Aetatis suae LXVIII., MDCCXXI.

His successor was Mr. Wilding, Master 1720—1733, an able and ill-used man, who was very nearly the victim of a rascally lawyer, then a member of the Governing Body of the School. Mr. Wilding was attacked on the fee-question by this lawyer, whose name had better be left in obscurity, and attacked in a

way, which was bold at any rate, if not honest. This lawyer made oath for instance, that the School was governed by the Statutes of 1592, and that none other had since been made, though new Statutes had been made in 1650 and again in 1679. But the Statutes of 1679 were not so favourable for his purpose as those of 1592, and probably no one but himself knew of the existence of those of 1679, which were in his custody, for he was the legal adviser and steward of the Governors. This lawyer brought a test case against Mr. Wilding as to the fees, by insisting on the Master teaching his nephew for nothing. Mr. Wilding refused and the lawyer persuaded the Governors to dismiss him; Mr. Wilding would not give up possession of his post and appealed for protection to the Lord Chancellor. The case in Chancery lasted from 1721 to 1724, being prolonged by every artifice that this man could invent, until at length the London lawyers representing the Governors actually remonstrated with them for thus wasting "Charity funds," for of course the expenses of the Governors came out of the Endowment. The result of the trial was, that Mr. Wilding won and the Governors, *i.e.* the School Endowment, had to pay his costs as well as theirs. I do not think that I have got all the costs together, for the Governors destroyed many of the documents of the case, those, that is to say, which told against them, and we know from the case of the subscriptions to the Vicar's endowment that money could be paid out of the School Chest without any mention being made of it in the Accounts. This much however is certain, that in 1724—1725 the Governors borrowed £250 to meet these legal expenses. Thus at the instigation of a lawyer, who himself sent in a bill for £42 2s. 8d., the School was crippled, bad blood made, and a good man worried into an early grave; for Mr. Wilding died in October, 1733, of heart-disease "as he was walking with Milton's "Paradise Lost in his hand on a Sunday morning in the Bristol "Road" (Toogood's MS. History of the School). In 1726 the lawyer ceased to be Steward to the Governors, who by that time doubtless wished they had not followed his advice.

Of the Rev. Thomas Paget, Master 1743—1751, a malicious account has been written by Mr. Toogood in his history of the School. Mr. Paget was evidently a good Schoolmaster and a successful one, though apparently not to the taste of Toogood, who was a boy under him. Until we get hold of Mr. Paget's views on Toogood, it will be safer to say little of Toogood's on Mr. Paget. The following is his epitaph in the Church of Mells, Somerset, of which he was Rector and where he was buried in 1783 :

Spe certa resurgendi juxta dormiunt reliquiae  
Thomae Paget S.T.B.

Hujus Ecclesiae per annos triginta fere quatuor Rectoris ;  
Qui hominis civis clerici munera non implevit modo, sed et  
ornavit omnia.

Erat enim Vir ingenuus probus pius, Pastor eruditus sedulus  
beneficus ;

dum gregi suo fideliter invigilaret, animo re corpore laborantes  
consilio aere cibo juvandos non solum voluit, sed et ipse curavit.

Severiora theologiae studia, quibus praecipue incubuit, .

Humaniorum literarum elegantissimis ita feliciter temperaverat,

Ut suavitate morum et officio bene praestito bonos omnes sibi  
devinxerit.

Ita demum in omni re se gessit, adeo decorum miscuit honesto,  
ut in vita amabilis, in morte flebilis, carissimam sui reliquerit  
memoriam.

Obit secundo die Januarii.

A.D. MDCCLXXXIII.

Aetatis LXXVIII.

Of the Rev. Nathaniel Bristed, Master 1766—1790, this much may be said ; he was during the earlier part of his career a very successful Master. But he added to his Mastership the Vicarages of Sherborne and Haydon and the Rectory of Bishop's Caundle and he was also an active County Magistrate, and in course of time so neglected his work here that the School

suffered severely. After being Master 24 years he resigned in 1790 and lived 20 years after that. He holds the unfortunate position of being the worst Headmaster ever known here.

Dr. Ralph Lyon, Master 1823—1845, on the other hand takes rank among the very best ; he soon brought the School up to 150, a total which in those days meant a great School ; the extension, known as the Bell Buildings, is due to him, so is the introduction of the study of Mathematics and of School Examinations in the modern style. For the first five years of his Mastership he showed a keen interest in the Library, and he designed the Bookplate now in use ; he was a good antiquarian and took a most active part in bringing about the Restoration of the Abbey. His views on this matter are still extant and are marked by thorough knowledge and that good sense which characterises what may be called the Conservative Restorer. The impression, which his letters to the Governors give, is that of a man of great power and administrative capacity ; the School flourished abundantly under him and many of the most distinguished Old Shirburnians were his pupils. His fame as a Mathematical teacher was wide, and under him was trained the only Sherborne Senior Wrangler, the late Professor Kelland of Edinburgh. To him was due the first really large extension of the School Buildings since the year 1697, and it is quite touching to read the imploring letters he had to write to the Governors on this point of providing more class-rooms, until at length they do what he asks them ; and it must be remembered that at the time he makes these appeals the School Estates were bringing in a very much larger rent than they are doing at the present day. When in the end they consented to begin the work he had to advance most of the money.

In 1826 Exhibitions were offered for competition among the Foundationers ; these Exhibitions were four in number, of £60 a year each, to be held for four years at either University—the

funds being provided from the Endowment. One Exhibition was to be offered for competition each year. There is quite an Idyllic story connected with the examination for this Exhibition in 1130. The Governors in that year asked the Rev. Henry Walter, Rector of Hazelbury Bryan, formerly one of the Professors at the East Indian Company's College at Haileybury, to examine the candidates. In answer to this request Mr. Walter wrote :

Hasilbury Bryan, Sept. 11th, 1830.

Sir,

I received your letter yesterday evg. Your being desired by the Governors to apply to a person equally unacquainted with them their master and the pupils implies such an honourable desire on their part to obtain an impartial opinion, that justice may be done to the young candidates, as would make it improper in me to decline aiding their intentions.

I shall therefore hold myself at their service for any day of next week, after you receive this, except Saturday; and if the two boys can come over here in time for my breakfast at 8 o'clock, there will be hours enough to make a sufficient trial of their knowledge, and yet let them return before dark. There is a village inn, at which their horses can be put up.

As it is desirable for the encouragement of industry and attention to their master that the boys should expect an examination, so important in its results, to turn chiefly upon their proficiency in those books w<sup>ch</sup> they have read with him, perhaps Mr. Lyon will send me a note stating what they have lately read. But if he had rather avoid appearing to exercise any interference, I can ask the youths themselves this question.

I have only further to add, that as an acquaintance with the first elements of Mathematics is now generally made a part of School education, particularly where the Master is so eminently



qualified to teach them, I wish to be instructed by you, whether I am to ascertain what progress they have made in Mathem<sup>cs</sup> and take it into account as the clause in your rules No. 19 speaking only of *literary* attainments and religious knowledge may perhaps be thought not to include the Mathematics.

I will thank you to manage to let me know, at least the day before, that I am to expect the candidates, as above—and am,  
Sir, Y<sup>r</sup> ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

HENRY WALTER.

Thos. Willmott Esq., Sherborne.

Now Hazelbury Bryan is quite ten miles, as the crow flies, from Sherborne; it lies in the Vale of Blackmore under the great camp of Rawlesbury, which is just to the west of Bulbarrow. By the road it must be twelve miles; so let us hope that the morning of the 16th September 1830 was fine, when the two boys Curtis and Highmore, the candidates, rode out of Sherborne on their way to Hazelbury to breakfast and examination. What befell them there is best told in Mr. Walter's own words:

Hasilbury Bryan, Septr. 16th, 1830.

Sir.

I have this day examined Highmore and Curtis in Sallust, Virgil, Homer, Horace, Livy, Cicero, a Greek play and the Greek Test<sup>t</sup> and Demosthenes—and have read exercises composed by them—whilst here—in Latin and English and on the Christian religion.

As far as I have ascertained their knowledge, it has been marked by a degree of accuracy very creditable both to themselves and Mr. Lyon. There is enough difference however between their acquirements to allow me to say without hesitation that Mr. Curtis is the best scholar of the two and yet Mr. Highmore is so little left behind that if you have two exhibitions to

bestow at this time, they would both be well deserved by these young men.

I am, Sir, yr ob<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>

HENRY WALTER.

Such is the first examination report on the work of Sherborne boys; evidently "the Mathematics" was not to count in that examination.

As to the School Examinations Dr. Lyon had at first to pay for printing and paper out of his own pocket, but in the third year of his Mastership it was agreed by the Governors to allow him £10 annually towards this.

I have found copies of papers on *Oedipus Tyrannus* and *Vergil A. VII*, set in 1824 and a fragment of a paper six pages long on Juvenal.

Among the candidates for the Mastership on the resignation of Dr. Lyon was the late Rev. H. A. J. Munro of Trinity College, Cambridge; had he been elected, Sherborne might have gained, but the world of Latin Scholarship would probably have been poorer. It is however something to remember, that the greatest Latin Scholar of the 19th century in England was a candidate for the Mastership here in 1845; his letter of application is among the School papers in the Library.

It is no slight to the other great Schoolmasters, who have governed this School, to describe Dr. Harper, Master 1850--1877, as the most remarkable of them all. To tell rightly the story of his career has been the work of another pen than mine; but this I must say of him, he was emphatically a great man. What he did for Sherborne, the very stones proclaim, building after building witnesses to him; and for many, I know, a real effort is necessary to call up a picture of any Sherborne at all before his time, so great is this man's personality, so dominating his spirit

here. Surely I may quote what was spoken of him by the present Headmaster on Sunday, the 27th January, 1895: "This Chapel where you are gathered to thank God for his life to-night; the noble Hall which is now the library; the Great Room which something of his spirit has just renewed and beautified; the Swimming Bath; the Cricket Ground; almost all that we prize and treasure most, is just his legacy . . . . We have entered (You and I) upon the noble heritage of ages long gone by, enriched a thousand-fold by the devotion and the splendid energy of one grand man!"

I had hoped to say something about the Ushers of the School and Assistant Masters, but this Chapter has grown to such a length that it will be better now to be brief. It is not possible from the old accounts to tell what Assistant Masters there were, for as they were not on the foundation they are not mentioned; the Master and Usher paid their own Assistants. But at times the Governors allowed them money for this purpose and then we are able to give the name of an Assistant Master: *e.g.* in 1623—1624 the Governors contribute £10 towards the salary of the Rev. Richard Camplyn Assistant Master to the Headmaster Mr. Grove; in 1636—1637 and for the next three years they contribute £8 a year towards the salary of Mr. Reape Assistant to the Usher Mr. Mitchell and to his successor Mr. Fyler. We might therefore draw the inference that from three to four Masters would be the usual number. It must be remembered that nothing was then taught but Classics, Hebrew, a little Arithmetic and Divinity; which last subject the Vicar was supposed to aid in teaching, in consequence of the £393 invested for him by the Governors as I have already told.

It is interesting to find that in the year 1673 the Usher the Rev. John Plowman was threatened with excommunication by the Dean of Sarum for teaching without a license. Sherborne and neighbourhood were then a *peculiar* under the ecclesiastical

jurisdiction of the Dean. Another Usher, the Rev. William Sharpe, is said to have been the death of a Sherborne Sexton. The Usher's chambers were close to the N. door of the Ambulatory, and he was fond of walking about the Abbey in the dead of night; a Sexton, who had just been appointed, and did not know of Mr. Sharpe's tastes, entered the Abbey late one night to get something which he had left there earlier in the day, and mistook the Reverend gentleman for the prince of darkness. The Sexton fled home and expired. Mr. Sharpe, being a native of Durham, was a great authority on coal-mines, and he induced the Lord Digby of the day to bore for coal in the neighbourhood; but nothing came of it.

I do not intend to carry this sketch of the history of the School (apart from its buildings) further than the year of the New Scheme, 1871; nor do I think it would be wise of me to attempt to make a list of Old Shirburnians, who have made a name for themselves in after-life, nor to give an account of the School games, nor of those brought up in this place, who have won for themselves fame in the football field, on the cricket ground or on the running path; for such lists are apt to be incomplete and to savour of advertisement.

Here then let us leave the history of the School, the most venerable of all institutions in this ancient place, a School with a life of nearly twelve centuries, older than the English realm itself, and but two centuries younger than the first West-Saxon settlement in Britain. That is a long story and it is all written on these buildings for him that has eyes to see; the School of S. Ealdhelm and King Alfred and S. Stephen Harding has long ago gained its niche in history. Under the shadow of Ine's Abbey, on soil that the Dane could never win, it stands still vigorous and young:

“Sit uiridis tamen illa, precor, sit cruda senectus,  
“Antiqui mores ingeniumque recens.”

HEADMASTERS OF SHERBORNE SCHOOL FROM  
1437 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

1437. Thomas Copeland. The name appears in a Subscription List for the Almshouse ; he is probably the person burlesqued on the Miserere Stall in the Abbey.
1549. Gibson.
1553. Thomas Coke, M.A., Fellow of Queen's Coll., Oxon.
1560. Francis Myddelton. M.A., Fellow of Magd. Coll., Oxon.; left Christmas 1561.
1561. Thomas Parvys, M.A., Ch. Ch., Oxon. ; left Christmas, 1563.
1563. William Wolveton, M.A., Fellow of Merton Coll., Oxon.; left Lady Day, 1565.
1565. John Delabere, M.A., Student of Ch. Ch., Oxon.; left Christmas, 1565; M D.; Principal of Gloucester Hall, Oxon., 1581-1593.
1565. John Hancock, M.A., Fellow of Merton Coll., Oxon.; Junior Linacre Lecturer, 1563; left Midsummer, 1573.
1573. Rev. Thomas Seward, M.A., Fellow of B.N.C., Oxon.; resigned Midsummer, 1581; Vicar of Yeovil from 1580.
1581. William Wood, M.A., B.N.C., Oxon.; a layman; resigned Midsummer, 1601. A benefactor to the Almshouse at Sherborne and at Hereford.

1601. Rev. John Geare, M.A., Queen's Coll., Oxon.; formerly master of Wimborne Grammar School; elected on the recommendation of Sir W. Raleigh and Mr. Secretary Cecil; resigned Midsummer, 1603, on being appointed Vicar of Lyme Regis and Rector of Symondsburry, "which he cannot enjoy by reason of the enemies' forces lying in those parts" (1645); died before Dec. 27, 1645.
1603. George Grove, M.A., Camb.; resigned Midsummer, 1639; drew pension until 1644; apparently a layman.
1639. Richard Newman [O.S.], M.A., Fellow of Merton Coll., Oxon.; died 1641; buried in Sherborne Abbey Church.
1641. Robert Balch, M.A., Merton Coll., Oxon.; resigned Christmas, 1633.
1653. Rev. William Birstall, D.D., Fellow of King's Coll., Camb.; Canon of Wells, 1660; resigned Lady Day, 1663, on being appointed Vicar of Eversley. He had a lawsuit with the Governors about their misuse of the endowment, and won his case. The Governors tried to eject him, proposing his removal on March 14th, 1660, and appointed Edward Allanson, M.A., Fellow of New Coll., Oxon., to succeed him. The Governors failed, and Edward Allanson never became Head Master.
1663. Rev. Joseph Allen, M.A., B.C.L., Fellow of New Coll., Oxon.; resigned 1670, on being appointed Rector of Maiden Newton.
1670. Joseph Goodenough, M.A., M.B., Queen's Coll., Oxon., "from Ilminster." He was the author of the chronogram *Tecta Draco custos*, etc. [In 1673 the Dean of Sarum attempted to excommunicate Mr. William Plowman,

usher (or sub-master) of the School, on the ground that his license to teach had not been given him by the Dean. The Governors determined to try the matter. Mr. Plowman is ordered "to leave his place as usher unless he forbears to execute the office of a minister in preaching or otherwise." He resigned his post in 1675.] Mr. Goodenough was ordered in 1673 to sit with his scholars in church in the place appointed for him, and not elsewhere without leave of the Company. On Oct. 8, 1683, he was ejected from his Headmastership, on suspicion of taking part with the Earl of Shaftesbury in the Exclusion Plot.

1683. Rev. Thomas Curgenvén, M.A., Exeter Coll., Oxon.; Master of Blandford School; resigned on being appointed Rector of Folke, 1694; continued to hold office by request of the Governors until Midsummer, 1695, as the Headmaster-Elect, Thomas Creech [O.S.] B.D., Fellow of All Souls' Coll., Oxon., 1683—1700, delayed to come. Mr Creech, who in the end resigned without ever acting as Head Master, was the author of a celebrated translation (1682) as well as an edition (1695) of the text of Lucretius, and of translations of Horace and Theocritus. He died at Oxford, *suâ manu*, June, 1700. Mr. Curgenvén died 1712.
1695. Rev. George Gerard, M.A., Fellow of Wadham Coll., Oxon., "from Blandford"; resigned Lady Day, 1720, and became Rector of Church Stanton, Devon; died 1721; buried in Sherborne Abbey Church.
1720. Rev. Benjamin Wilding, M.A., Balliol Coll., Oxon.; Master of Bath Grammar School; author of *The Duke of Buckingham's Epitaph Explained and Vindicated*. An attempt made in 1721-22 to eject him for breach of the School Statutes involved a law suit, which was won by

- him. Died October, 1753, "as he was walking with Milton's 'Paradise Lost' in his hand, on a Sunday morning in the Bristol Road" (*Toogood*).
1733. Rev. John Gaylard, M.A., Fellow of Emmanuel Coll., Camb.; Vicar of Winsford, 1714-1743, where he was non-resident for years; Usher of the School, 1723-1728; Master of Wells Grammar School, 1728-1733. Died at Sherborne, 1743; his portrait was for 50 years in the Board Room of the Almshouse. It has now been restored to the School.
1743. Rev. Thomas Paget, M.A., C.C.C., Oxon. (formerly of Queen's Coll.); Proctor, 1737; B.D., 1738; Rector of St. Mewan, Cornwall; Rector of Clifton Milbank, Dorset, 1742; Vicar of Bradford Abbas, 1743; Rector of Poyntington, 1745; resigned Headmastership, 1751; Rector of Mells, Somerset, 1750, until his death, 1783, aged 77. [See Hutchins' *Dorset*, IV. 290].
1751. Rev. Joseph Hill, M.A., Ch. Ch., Oxon.; resigned Lady Day on being appointed Rector of Kington Magna and Chilton Cantelo; died 1768.
1766. Rev. Nathaniel Bristed, M.A., Emmanuel Coll., Camb.; Rector of Bishop's Caundle and Vicar of Haydon, 1780-1810; Vicar of Sherborne, 1781-1810; resigned Headmastership, Michaelmas, 1790; died 1810.
1790. Rev. John Cutler, M.A., Exeter Coll., Oxon.; sometime Chaplain to H.M.S. *Hero*; resigned Lady Day, 1823.
1823. Rev. Ralph Lyon, D.D., Scholar of Trin. Coll., Camb.; Rector of Bishop's Caundle, 1841-1856; resigned Headmastership, Midsummer, 1845; died 1856.
1845. Rev. Charles Thomas Penrose, M.A., Scholar of Trin. Coll., Camb.; resigned in consequence of ill-health, Midsummer, 1850.



1850. Rev. Hugo Daniel Harper, M.A., Scholar and Fellow of Jesus Coll., Oxon. ; Hon. Canon of Salisbury, 1871-1882 ; resigned Headmastership, Christmas, 1877 ; Principal of Jesus Coll., Oxon., 1877 ; D.D., 1878 ; Rector of Clynnogvawr, 1878-1882 ; of Besselsleigh, 1882-1895. Died Jan. 8, 1895.
1877. Rev. Edward Mallet Young, M.A., Scholar and Fellow of Trin. Coll., Camb. ; Hon. Canon of Salisbury, 1890-1894 ; resigned Headmastership Easter, 1892 ; Rector of Rothbury, 1894 ; R.D. of Rothbury, 1895 ; Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Newcastle, 1896 ; Hon. Canon of Newcastle, 1900. Died 1901.
1892. Rev. Frederick Brooke Westcott, M.A., Scholar and Fellow of Trin. Coll., Camb. ; Chaplain to the Bishop of Durham ; Hon. Canon of Salisbury, 1900.

#### USHERS.

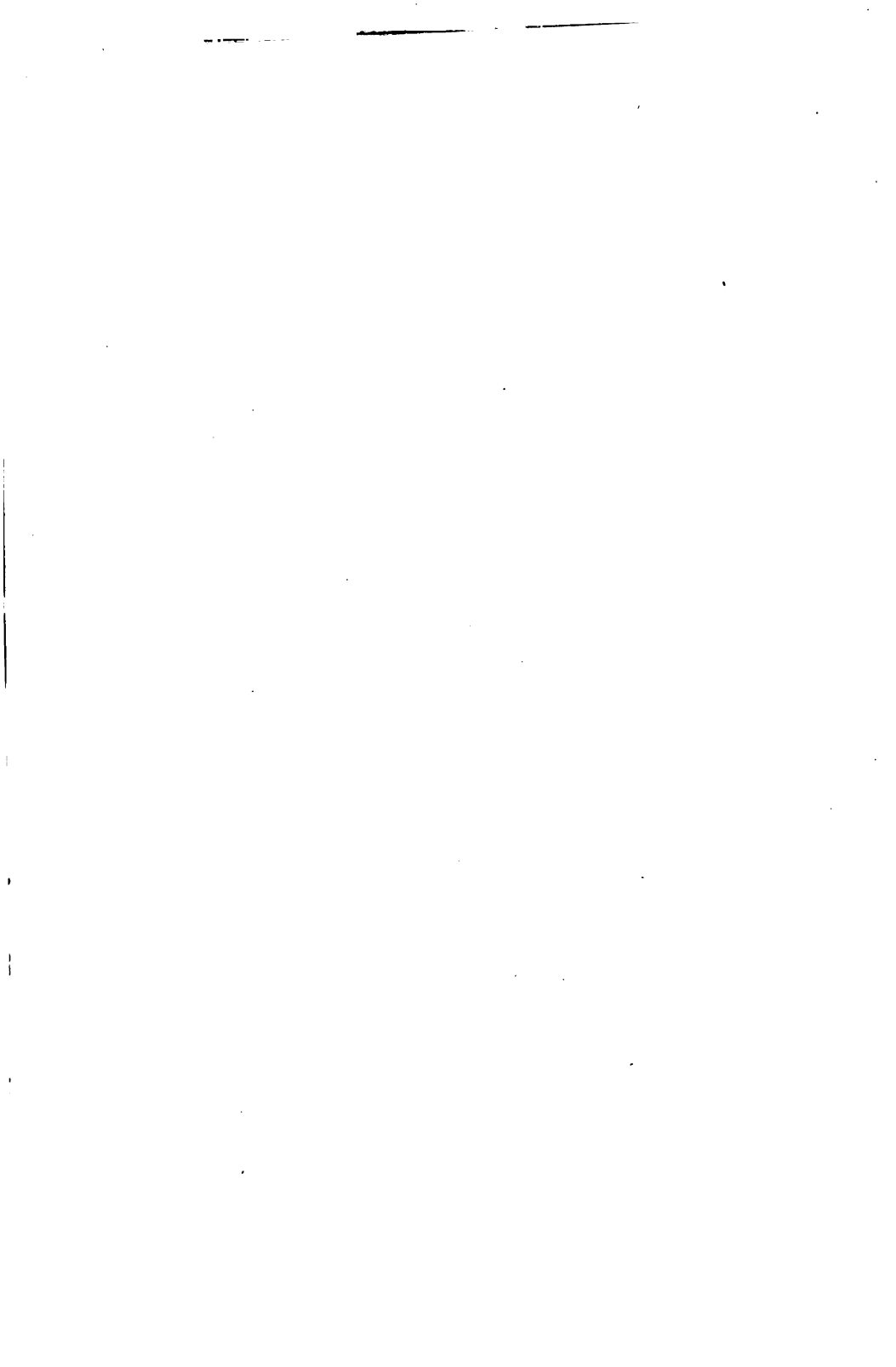
The Usher, or Lower Master was an official appointed by the Governors, independent of the Head Master ; he must at least be a B.A. of Oxford or Cambridge, and might be in Holy Orders. From the fragment of an account Roll, still extinct, of 1549, we learn that there was also an Usher before the Refounding in 1550, but unfortunately the name of the then Usher is not given.

1560. Henry Bagwell, B.A., sometime Augustinian Canon of St. Mary's Coll., Oxon ; Rector of Hatfield.
1561. John Martin, B.A., Fellow of Univ. Coll., Oxon. ; resigned Christmas, 1563 ; Rector of Somerton.
1563. Thomas Penye, B.A. ; resigned Lady Day, 1565.

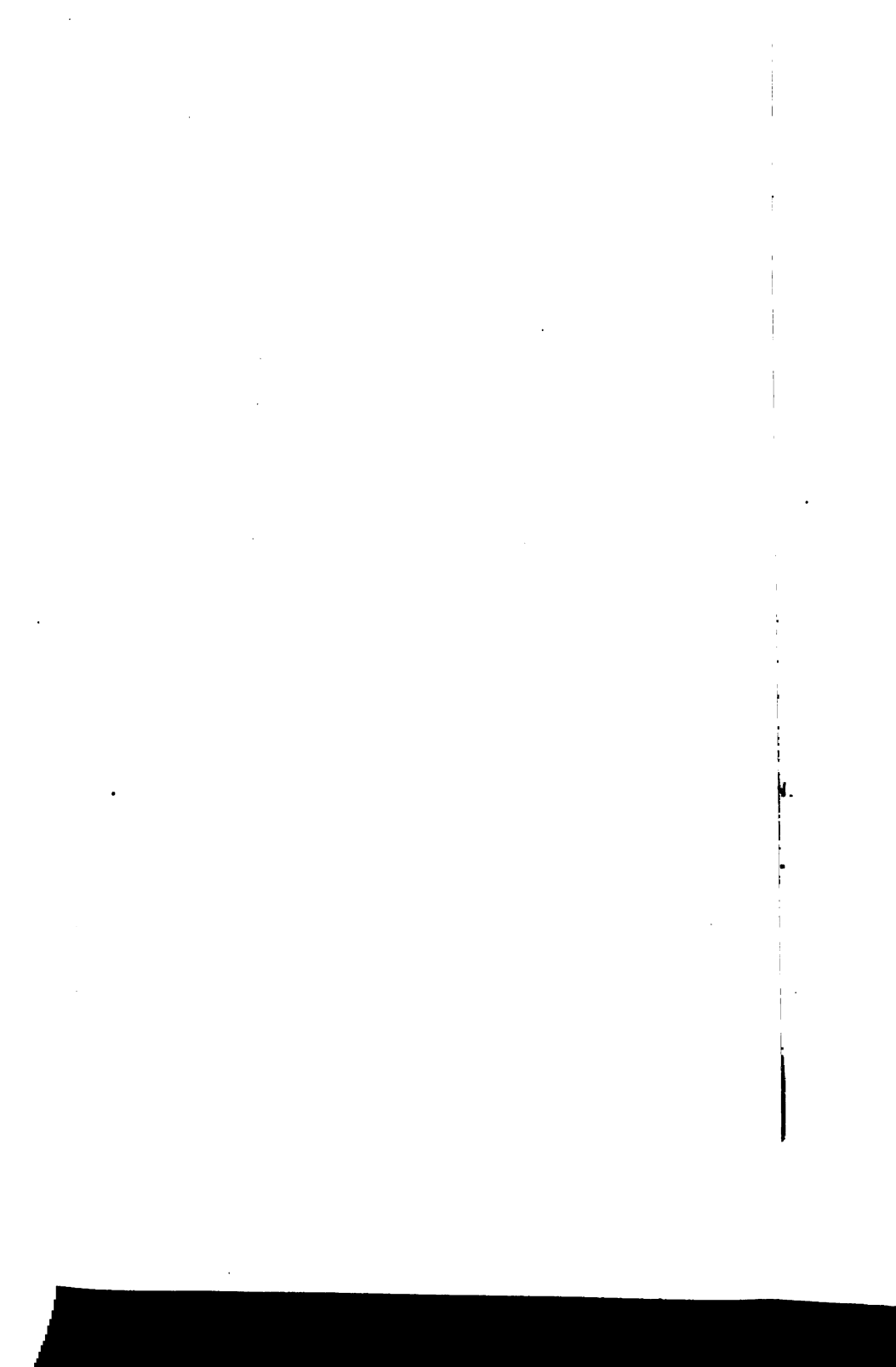
1565. George Holman, B.A., Vicar of Sherborne, 1566-1580; resigned Mich., 1569; buried in Sherborne Abbey Church.
1569. Nicholas Buckler, B.A., St. Alban's Hall, Oxon; resigned Mich., 1570.
1570. Hammet Hyde, B.A.,; resigned, 1572. Rector of Bishop's Caundle.
1572. Walter Bloboll, B.A.; resigned Lady Day, 1573; Rector of Poyntington, 1578-1616; buried in Poyntington Church, Jan. 15th, 1617.
- 1573 John Elford, B.A.
- [No Usher's name is given in the Account Rolls from 1574 to 1581, though a salary is regularly "paid to the Usher."]
1581. — Wornell; resigned Christmas, 1581.
1581. Philip Morris, B.A., Linc. Coll., Oxon.; resigned Christmas, 1584.
1584. Lawrence Fuller, B.A., Magd. Hall, Oxon.; resigned Mids., 1589; Rector of Nichol Aston, 1589.
1589. John Rooke, M.A.; resigned Mich. 1595.
1595. William More, M.A., Gloucester Hall, Oxon.; resigned Mids., 1605.
1605. George Gardiner, B.A., St. Mary Hall, Oxon.; resigned Mich., 1611.
1611. George Harrison, B.A., Ex. Coll., Oxon.; resigned Mids., 1625; Rector of Bryanstone, 1625.
1625. Randell Calcott, B.A., Magd. Hall, Oxon.; resigned Mich., 1629; D.D., 1648; Rector of Hayes, Middlesex.

1629. Richard Camplin, St. Mary Hall, Oxon. ; Assist. Master at Sherborne since 1623 ; resigned Christmas, 1629, on being appointed Vicar of Kingston-juxta-Taunton.
1629. John Jacob, B.A., Mert. Coll., Oxon. ; resigned Mids., 1635.
1635. John Mitchell, B.A., Ball. Coll., Oxon. ; resigned Mich., 1638 ; Proctor in Oxford Univ., 1645 ; Rector of Langton Matravers.
1638. John Fyler, B.A., Ball. Coll., Oxon. ; resigned Mids., 1647 ; Vicar of Cranborne (?).
1647. Thomas Martin [O.S.], B.A., Pemb. Coll., Oxon. ; resigned Mids., 1664.
1664. Jonathan Grey, B.A. ; resigned Lady Day, 1667.
1667. John Walker, M.A., Demy of Magd. Coll., Oxon. ; resigned Mich., 1667.
1667. William Plowman [O.S.], M.A. ; Vicar of Abbotsbury, 1674 ; resigned Mich. 1674, but continued to act as Usher until Mids., 1675 (because his successor, Oliver Philipps, was prevented from coming) ; Rector of Winterbourne Steepleton, 1694 ; of Winterborne Came, 1696 ; of Long Bredy, 1701, where he died and was buried in 1712. Oliver Philipps never came.
1675. Peter Blanchard, B.A., Madg. Coll., Oxon. ; Rector of Winterborne Monkton, 1680 ; resigned Mids., 1612.
1682. Abraham Forrester, B.A., Ch. Ch., Oxon. ; resigned Mids., 1695.
1695. Robert Forrester, [O.S.], B.A., Trin. Coll., Oxon. ; died before Oct. 14, 1695 ; buried in Sherborne Abbey Chnrch.

- 1695 John Butt [O.S.] M.A., Trin. Coll., Oxon. ; resigned Mids., 1718, on being appointed Vicar of Milborne Port.
1718. Edward Cosins, B.A., Queen's Coll., Oxon. ; resigned Lady Day, 1723 ; Rector of Yarlington, 1723.
- 1723 John Gaylard, M.A., Fellow of Emman. Coll., Camb. ; Vicar of Winsford, 1724 ; resigned, Mids., 1728 ; Head Master of Sherborne, 1733, until his death, 1743.
1728. James Martin, B.A., Mert. Coll., Oxon. ; resigned 1737.
1737. James Thomas, M.A., Ch. Ch., Oxon. ; buried in Sherborne Abbey Church, Feb. 4th, 1760.
1760. William Sharpe, M.A., Univ. Coll., Oxon. ; Vicar of Longburton, 1763 ; resigned 1766 ; died in the North of England, Dec. 1783.
1766. John Bristed, M.A., Camb. ; Rector of St. Ann's, Lewes ; resigned Lady Day, 1779.
1779. Robert Pargiter, B.A., Demy of Magd. Coll., Oxon., resigned Lady Day, 1780 ; died in London, Feb. 23rd, 1803.
1780. William Glasspoole, M.A., Fellow of New Coll., Oxon. ; resigned Mich., 1790.
1700. James Knight Moore, M.A., Trin. Coll., Camb. ; resigned Christmas, 1801 ; Rector of Sapcote, Leicestershire ; died at Hinkley, Leic., June 17th, 1806 ; a man of much theological and antiquarian learning, and a valued contributor to Hutchins' *History of Dorset*.
1801. William Hoblyn Lake, M.A., Fellow of Wadham Coll., Oxon. ; resigned Mids., 1804 ; drowned in the Texel, 1812, when Chaplain of H.M.S. *St. George*.







1804. (Henry Cutler, B.A., Ex. Coll., Camb.; *locum tenens* to Lady Day, 1805.)
1805. David Williams, B.A., Oriel Coll., Oxon.; resigned Christmas, 1813; Rector of Baughurst, Hants.
1813. Thomas James, M.A., St. John's Coll., Camb.; Rector of Lillington, 1846-1866; resigned 1860; elected a Governor of the School, 1861; died, 1866.
1860. Arthur Mapletoft Curteis, M.A., Fellow of Trin. Coll., Oxon.; ceased to be Usher when the office was abolished under the new scheme, 1871; resigned Assist. Mastership, 1876.

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### SHERBORNE OLD CASTLE, NEW CASTLE.

Sherborne Old Castle is situated on an elevated piece of ground between two streams, which unite to the West of it. The level ground to the North and South of it was in the old days a marsh, for Sherborne Lake on the South is, comparatively speaking, a modern creation, and the marsh on the North has been converted into fertile water-meadows.

**Platform.** This elevated piece of ground is a knoll of rock and gravel about 200 yards long from E. to W. by 150 yards broad from N. to S.; the surface has been made level and an oval area 150 yards long by 105 yards broad has been traced out, and the edges of it scarped to a steep slope with a ditch about 45 feet deep. The material taken away in forming this scarp and ditch has been thrown outwards, so that the counter-scarp is formed of a mound more or less artificial.



As this elevated ground afforded a platform longer than was needed, the East and West ends of it were cut off by the ditch. To the S.W. of the castle a dam was thrown up to bank back the water of the stream which then flowed to the S. of the castle.

**Curtain.** The curtain is in the form of an irregular octagon; its W. and E. ends are 74 yards and 59 yards, its N. and S. sides are 113 yards and 112 yards long, while the four short sides are respectively 28 yards, 37 yards, 33 yards, and 38 yards; what remains of the curtain is of coursed rubble, thoroughly soundly built with interior and exterior quoins of ashlar at the angles. This curtain was 7 feet thick and 30 feet high. Its whole length was rather over 490 yards, of which about 110 yards are still standing, but in seven fragments. The gate-house Tower (D) stands on this curtain and, besides this tower, an ancient plan shows three rectangular Towers upon the short sides (A, B, C). Of one of these there is a trace in a heap of rubbish (B), from which it appears that those Towers projected inwards.

**Gate House.** At the S.W. corner of the base court stands the gate-house tower bonded into and of the same date as the curtain. This tower is 28 feet from E. to W. and projects 14 feet beyond the curtain; it consists of a basement with three stories above it. The basement is occupied by the entrance passage 11 feet broad and on each side of the passage the stonework is solid in the front of the tower; in the rear on the N. side is a barrel-vaulted lodge 4ft. 6in. by 7ft. with a small cupboard in the N. wall. A low round-headed door opens from the lodge into the entrance passage; there is also a loop-hole looking into the basement. In the rear of the S. side is a well-staircase 5ft. in diameter, which probably had a door at the bottom opening into the entrance passage; but if so, it has been built up, since the gatehouse became a ruin. This I believe to have been the case. There is a tradition in Sherborne that there

never was such a door, but that the staircase led down into a subterranean passage communicating with the Keep. That there was such a passage is possible; but it is very improbable that this subterranean passage gave the only means of access to the staircase and so to the upper floors of the gatehouse. An hour's work with spade and shovel would settle the point. The well-staircase ascended to the roof of the tower opening on the three upper floors.

The entrance passage has a segmental arch in front and rear, the jambs of the former are broken away; in the centre of the passage is a rebate for a pair of doors opening inwards; the arch over the doorway is gone. Except at the arches the passage was covered with timber, as is usual in Norman gatehouses. There was no portcullis.

The first floor consisted of one room with a large round-headed window in front and another in rear, probably originally fitted up for two lights like the windows in the undercroft of the School Chapel, but all trace of such an arrangement has now disappeared. On the N. side two round-headed windows command the front and rear of the curtain; between them was a fire-place. On the S. side a similar round-headed window commanding the front of the curtain; there was no mural passage on the S. side so far as I can judge, though Mr. G. T. Clarke, whose admirable description of this Castle I am closely following, thought so.

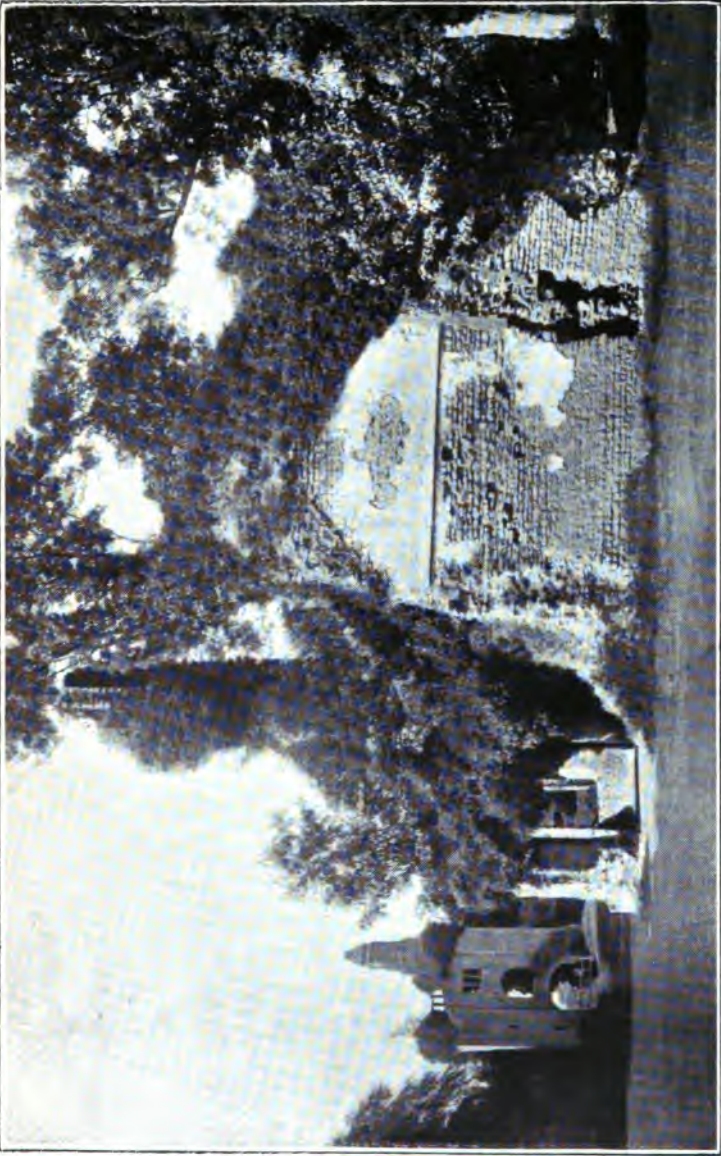
The second floor has a large Tudor window in front and another in rear, with a fire-place on the N. side, and in the N. and S. walls a doorway opening on to the battlements of the curtain. The third floor also had two Tudor windows and a fire-place, but the whole floor is very mutilated. The flues of the fire-places are so bent as to reach the N.W. angle of the tower, where they ascend as a turret ending in a pyramidal top, below which, opening N. and S. are three small round-headed

arches for the escape of smoke. The pyramid appears to be Norman, but the fire-places look like insertions of the 15th century. A weather-moulding on the interior face of the S. wall shows according to Mr. G. T. Clarke that, while the N. and S. walls were originally of their present height, the E. and W. walls were no higher than the top of the first floor, the roof sloping down to them from a central ridge. Afterwards the E. and W. walls were raised, two new floors added and a flat roof substituted for the sloping roof. This explanation of the weather moulding is excellent, but anyone, who to his mind's eye thus reconstructs the gatehouse, will then be puzzled about the staircase, which is most certainly part of the original Norman work, and yet on this theory it would after passing the first floor lead up into the turret and there stop, which seems unlikely, and moreover the doors of the second floor, leading on to the battlements of the curtain, appear to be Norman, therefore the second floor is apparently part of the original work.

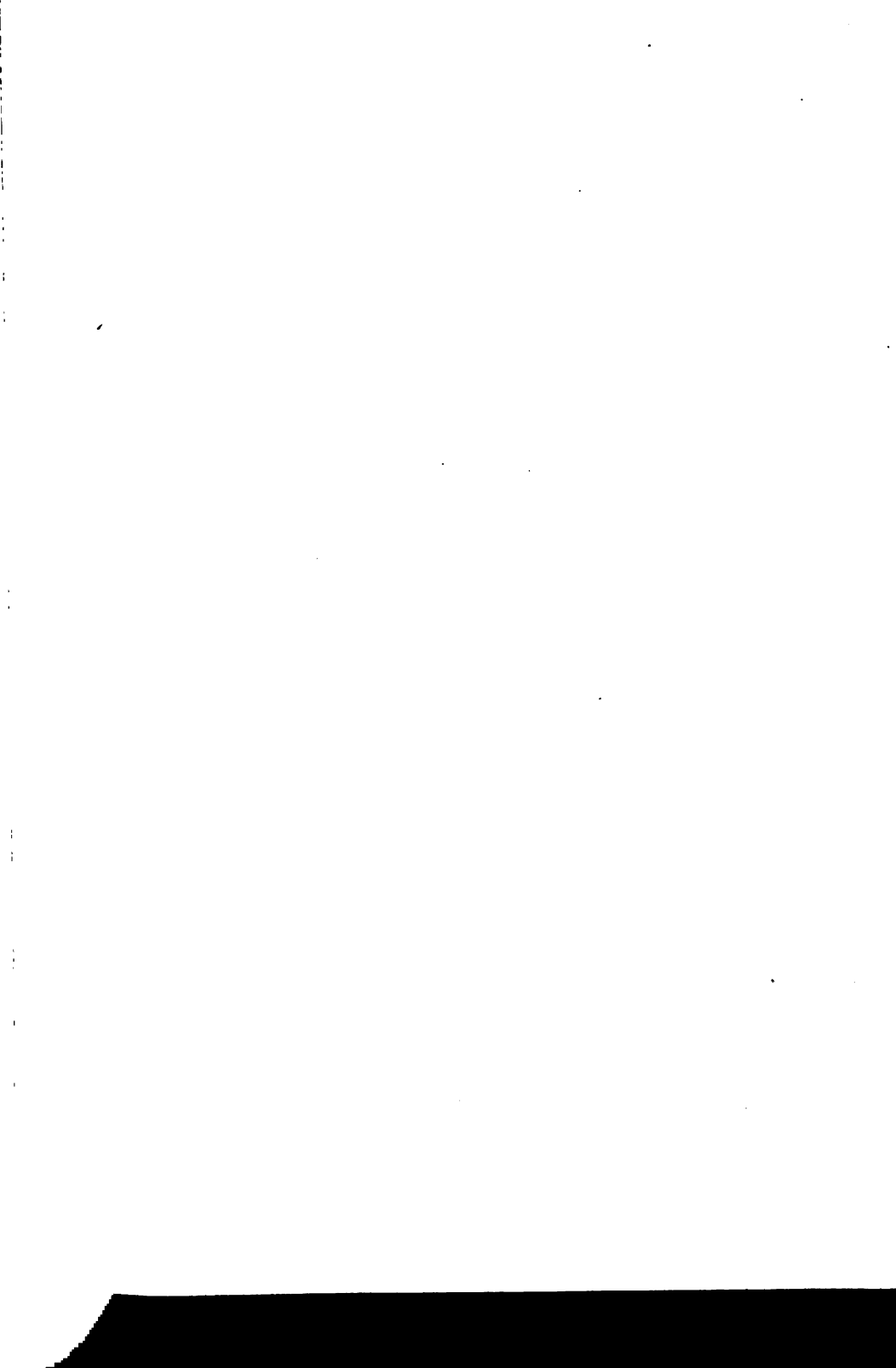
The only theory, which will explain the appearances, without doing violence to the evidence, is this: that the original covering of the gatehouse was such as Mr. G. T. Clarke describes it, but that *within the Norman period* the whole gatehouse was raised from a two-storied building with a sloping roof to a four-storied building with a flat roof, the N. and S. walls being raised as well as the E. and W. walls. Finally in the 15th century the Norman windows in front and rear of the second and third floors were replaced by the windows which we now see.

The Gatehouse, as we see it, with the exception of these inserted Tudor windows, is certainly Norman; the flat buttresses at the angles prove that the walls are Norman and were raised to their present highest point in Norman times. There was originally a drawbridge.

The domestic buildings enclosed a quadrangular space (O) about 40 yards square. This group of buildings consists of the



SHERBORNE OLD CASTLE, PART OF KEEP.



Keep (E), the Chapel and Hall (I, H) and the other domestic buildings (K, L, M); it is not in the centre of the base-court, but nearer the N.W. corner.

Keep. The Keep (E) was rectangular about 66ft. long by 41ft. broad; the walls are 9ft. thick. The basement which is at the ground level is divided longitudinally by a wall 6ft. thick into two long barrel-vaulted compartments 8ft. 6in. broad. The original entrance to this basement appears to have been at the N. end of the E. compartment and near this is a side-opening in the cross-wall, probably a mutilated doorway. There was a large loophole, one might well call it a window, in the W. wall of the W. compartment.

Attached to the S. part of the W. wall of the Keep was a large turret 23ft. broad by 17ft. projection, probably without any opening into the base-court; the basement of this turret had a barrel vault and was probably a prison, the access to which would be from above through a hole in the vault. The S. end of the Keep has been much altered at about the same time as the gatehouse, viz., late in the 15th century. The dividing wall of the basement ends at 22ft. from the S. end of the Keep, and thus a Chamber is formed 22ft. square, in the centre of which stands a cylindrical Norman pier 3ft. in diameter, which carries a ribless quadripartite groined vault. The S. wall of the Keep and the neighbouring parts of the lateral walls have been reconstructed in the 15th century, only 4ft. thick, but the middle piece of this wall, where it receives the main thrust of the vault has been left 9ft. thick as a buttress, rounded off at the sides, and the whole has been refaced with the old Norman ashlar; the wall on each side of the buttress has been pierced for four large Tudor windows, two looking S., one looking E., and one looking W. (see letter G on plan). These windows were 5ft. wide on the outside and splayed to 7ft. on the inside. The Keep has a first floor reached by a sinuous staircase in the N. wall, the door

at the head of which was over the door of the basement. The first floor consisted of one room 23ft. broad by 41ft. long ; as the keep walls continue to be 9ft. thick, it is likely that this room too was vaulted, but in one span instead of two. Through the W. wall towards the S. end a passage leads into the Keep Turret ; it is 3ft. broad and in its S. side down a few steps is a small mural chamber, which Mr. G. T. Clarke calls a garde-robe ; that I think is unlikely, owing to the position of the mural chamber. So far as I know, garde-robes always opened on an external wall, and that is impossible here. Mr. Clarke thinks this garde-robe opened into the basement of the Keep Turret ; if so, the basement of the turret was certainly not a prison, and the garde-robe was one of the most expensive elaborate and unsatisfactory places of the sort ever planned. And what was the use of the barrel vault of this basement ? But Mr. Clarke's knowledge of mediaeval military architecture is so wide, that it is rash to disagree with him.

The S. end of the large chamber of the Keep on this first floor was altered at the same time as the basement, to form large bay windows in the Tudor fashion. Probably there was a second floor, as part of the Keep wall still rises to that height, but the ivy prevents a proper examination of this part of the ruin.

On the outside of the E. wall the level of the first floor is marked by a chamfered string-course having a chevron moulding on the chamber.

The quadrangle (O) may be called the inner ward of the castle ; the building in the S. marked (M) has entirely disappeared, though a fragment was standing some years ago, and its presence is suggested both by the shape of the ground and the E. wall of the keep ; I imagine the kitchens to have been here ; in the E. of the quadrangle are domestic buildings (K), the basement of which had a barrel-vault ; this building is 16ft.

Outside the curtain to the N. a spurwork (N) projects, along which there was once apparently a wall of which fragments are still left. It is possible, as has been suggested, that the fragments lying on the spurwork were hurled thither by gunpowder, when the castle was 'sighted.' This point a little digging would settle. The spurwork covers hollow ways on its E. and W. sides, by which sallies could be made, and provides also flanking defence of the ditch.

There are some fragments of old wall to the S.W. of the castle near the lake connected with a dam, no doubt used to control the water on that side.

The earth-works are very probably older than the Norman period, but none of the masonry is; the great thickness of the wall of the Keep and the curtain, its rough but sound workmanship, the absence of portcullis or pointed arch indicate that the work is early Norman; on the other hand the fine-jointed ashlar and the ornate character of the chapel windows suggest that the castle was built in the reign of Henry II. rather than of Henry I.

But we have distinct historical testimony as to the builder of the castle; for William of Malmesbury was a contemporary of Bishop Roger of Sarum, and William tells us that Roger built Sherborne Castle. William also describes Roger's masonry as follows: "*aedificia spatio diffusa, numero pecuniarum sumptuosa, specie formosissima; ita iuste composito ordine lapidum, ut iunctura perstringat intuitam, et totam maceriam unum mentiatum esse saxum.*" Anyone who has inspected Bishop Roger's building in the Abbey Church, or who has looked at the Castle, will confess that William of Malmesbury's description of it is excellent. (Will., Malm., G.R., V., 408). Thus Sherborne Castle is very accurately dated, for Roger was Bishop, 1107-1139. Roger as a builder was very far in advance of his age



and built here in Sherborne a Castle, which if built by a layman would have been a much ruder structure. It is strictly more than a Castle, it is a fortified palace; the site was probably from Ealdhalm's time the site of the Bishop's dwelling, and being outside the town it was fortified. Bishop Roger had no more scruple in pulling down and rebuilding the bishop's dwelling-place than he had in pulling down and rebuilding the cathedral.

The alterations made in the Gatehouse and Keep during the 15th century have been ascribed, but I know not on what authority, to Bishop Langton, of Sarum, 1485-1493. This date agrees very well with the character of the alterations.

Sherborne I have already told how the Great Manor  
Great Manor. of Sherborne originally belonged to the  
Bishop, whether his seat was at Sherborne  
or Sarum. *Domesday* puts it thus: "Ipse Episcopus tenet  
Scireburne. Eddid regina tenuit, et ante eam Alwoldus  
Episcopus." It is difficult to understand Queen Edith's tenure;  
S. Alfwold held it, as *Domesday* tells, and so did Bishop Osmund  
at the time of the survey, how comes it then that Bishop  
Hermann between S. Alfwold and Osmund does not, while Edith,  
the Confessor's wife, does?

1122. In 1122 Bishop Roger of Sarum separated from the great manor a portion called the Abbot's fee, with which he endowed the Abbot and Convent of Sherborne, and thenceforward we have two manors, the Bishop's Manor and the Abbot's Manor in Sherborne.

1139. In 1139 King Stephen forced Bishop Roger to surrender the Castle of Sherborne to the Crown; for the Bishop had been in arms against the King.

1217. In 1217 the Castle, but not the Manor, passed into the hands of Montacute, Earl of Salisbury.

1356. In 1355, however, in Edward III.'s time Robert Wyville Bishop of Sarum, " pugil intrepidus " brought a writ of right against William Montacute, the Earl of Salisbury, for detaining this Castle of Sherborne from him wrongfully ; that is to say, the Castle in the opinion of Robert Wyville was not taken away from the Bishoprick in 1139, but from the individual, Bishop Roger, and it still belonged to the see. Montacute appealed to the King for a trial by battle. Each party provided a champion, but the King on the day fixed for the duel decided that Montacute must give up the Castle to the Bishop, and the Bishop must pay Montacute 2500 marks. The affair is commemorated by the famous brass of Bishop Robert Wyville in Salisbury Cathedral.
1548. On the 8th March, 1548, John Capon, Bishop of Sarum, leased the Castle and Manor of Sherborne, and the neighbouring estates belonging to the Bishopric to Edward, Duke of Somerset for 99 years, without apparently reserving any rent for any of these estates, certainly not for the Manors of Holnest and Longburton. In 1550 the Duke of Somerset assigned his lease to Sir John Paulet, Knt., Lord St. John for the remainder of his term, according to Hutchins, who further states that John Capon in Queen Mary Tudor's reign exhibited a bill in Chancery, showing that the Duke of Somerset had extracted the lease of 1548 from him by threats ; the Lord Chancellor, Archbishop Heath of York, admitted the justice of the plea and cancelled the lease ; and thus the Castle was once more restored to the Bishoprick of Sarum. This is no doubt in the main true, but I have been fortunate enough to find among the Digby papers a MS. folio written in 1610 containing copies of deeds and decrees of the Court of

Exchequer relating to Sir Walter Raleigh's tenure of the Manor ; this folio throws much light on Raleigh's case, light which neither Mr. Edwards in his *Life of Raleigh* nor Mr. S. R. Gardiner in his *History of England*, nor Mr. Gosse in his *Life of Raleigh* had when they discussed the matter. From one of these deeds I learnt that the lease given by Bishop Capon to the Duke of Somerset was not cancelled so far, at any rate, as the Manors of *Burton* and *Holnest* were concerned.

1578. In 1578, according to Hutchins' *Dorset*, John Piers, Bishop of Sarum, let the Manor of Sherborne to Queen Elizabeth for 99 years, and she in the same year granted this lease to a certain Thomas White ; this lease must have been cancelled before 1592.
1592. On the 18th January, 1592, John Coldwell, Bishop of Sarum, let to Queen Elizabeth for 99 years all the estates of the Bishop in and near Sherborne, including the Manors of Holnest and Longburton, at an annual rent of £200 16s. 1d. ; these two Manors however were then in the tenure of John Fitzjames, under the lease given by John Capon to Edward, Duke of Somerset, in 1548 ; and, as the Digby MS. tells us, Fitzjames' lease had still 55 years to run. On the 27th January in the same year the Queen sublet the whole of these estates to Sir Walter Raleigh for the remainder of her term.
1594. In 1594, on the 10th April, Sir Walter Raleigh sold his reversion of Longburton and Holnest to Fitzjames " for a good sum of money."
1598. In 1598 Sir Walter Raleigh, as he maintained in 1609, conveyed to his son Walter his lease of Sherborne Manor " without power of revocation reserved " with

the proviso that his son should pay to Dame Elizabeth Raleigh, Sir Walter's wife, £200 a year, after Sir Walter's death. This transfer, however, Sir Walter could not produce in 1609, nor was it ever found. This we learn from the Digby MS.

1599. On the 20th August, 1599, Henry Cotton, Bishop of Sarum, granted to Queen Elizabeth, by indenture confirmed by the Dean and Chapter of Sarum, the Castle and Manor of Sherborne, together with all the other neighbouring estates belonging to the see, including the Manors of Longburton and Holnest, in fee for ever, in consideration of a sum of £260 to be paid yearly to the holder of the See of Sarum out of the Manor of Sherborne, and of £60 to be paid yearly out of the Manors of Longburton and Holnest. In this way the Castle and Manor were in 1599 entirely alienated from the See of Sarum, and only the rent charge was left to remind men of the old Lords of Sherborne.

On the 11th September of the same year Queen Elizabeth by "letters patents" gave to Sir Walter Raleigh and his heirs for ever the Manor of Sherborne, and to John Fitzjames and his heirs Longburton and Holnest, to be held of her as of her Manor of East Greenwich; the payment to the Bishop being of course reserved, and Sir Walter and John Fitzjames having already surrendered their leases on condition of receiving this grant.

Raleigh thus became owner in fee of Sherborne, and he seems now to have thought that the conveyance of 1598 to his son was obsolete, and so he made a new conveyance.

1603. Accordingly on the 20th January 1603 an indenture was drawn up between Sir Walter Raleigh of the one part

and Sir Arthur Throgmorton, Raleigh's brother-in-law, Alexander Brett and Thomas Heryotts on the other part, by which Sir Walter, while reserving the income to himself for life, conveyed all his estates to his eldest son and the heirs male of his body lawfully to be begotten and failing such to the second son in the same way and failing such to the third, fourth and fifth son and so on, and failing sons then to daughters and their heirs, and failing such then to Sir Carewe Raleigh and his heirs, and failing such to the right heirs of Sir Walter for ever ; provided that if Sir Walter should wish to revoke this by writing under his hand and seal during his life-time or by will after his death, he might do so. This indenture was sealed and delivered on the 12th April, 1603, in the presence of Ro : Crosse, Duke Brooke, Edw : Parham, Jo : Doddrig, Law : Kemys and Jo : Shelbury. This document is known as the " Imperfect Deed " because the clerk, who copied it from the rough draft, missed out the words " that ye said Sir Walter should stand and be seized." In 1608 Sir Henry Hobarte, Attorney-General, wrote at the bottom of it the following words :

" Sir Walter Raleghs imp'fect deed of Covenants intended for ye raising of uses to ye benefytt of his sonne but fayling in yt for want of theis wordes that ye owner Sr Walter Raleigh should stand and be seized, &c." This imperfect deed was drawn by Sir John Doddridge, afterwards a Justice of the King's Bench about Midsummer, 1602.

On the 21st September 1603 Raleigh was indicted for High Treason, and his trial began at Winchester, on the 17th November. Raleigh being condemned, all his property was forfeited to the Crown, but under the

Indenture just alluded to, which no one as yet knew to be imperfect, it was of course only Raleigh's life interest that was forfeited. Mr. Gardiner says that Raleigh soon induced the King to make over this forfeited life interest to trustees on behalf of Lady Raleigh; but this is not quite the way in which the Digby MS. puts the matter. From a decree of the Exchequer Court in 1604. 1609, to which I shall refer later, we learn that on the 14th February, 1604, the King "by letters patents" granted to John Shelbury and Robert Smyth "all and singular the goods and chattels as well as personal moveable and immoveable with the specialities of the same." Now as Shelbury and Smyth were Raleigh's friends, it seems most likely that they were to act as Trustees for Lady Raleigh, but the decree does not say so.

Soon, however, it was discovered that the deed of the 20th January, 1603, was imperfect and legally void; both Coke and Popham informed Cecil of this in June, 1605; hence it followed, that at the time of Raleigh's attainder he was the owner of the freehold of the Manor, and that therefore the Manor itself was now the king's. Mr. Gardiner tells us that the king on making this discovery agreed to waive his strict legal rights and ordered Cecil to prepare a new grant of Sherborne to Lady Raleigh and her children; this was the just course to take. For though the Indenture of 1603 was imperfect, Sir Walter himself was still alive to testify to its intention, and so were others who knew its contents, and one can hardly understand a Court of Equity refusing to make the deed valid. To take advantage of the omission in the copying was not to do justice but to turn the law into an instrument of injustice. Unfortunately for James's good name, he drew back, says Mr. Gardiner, and never executed the new deed.

- I wonder whether Mr. Gardiner is right in his theory of this proposed new grant ; there is no allusion to it in the Digby MS., instead of that we get a different arrangement to the following effect : on the 3rd August, 1604, the King by " letters patents " granted to Sir Alexander Brett and George Hull the Sherborne Estate for 60 years or so long as Sir Walter Raleigh should live, for the benefit of Lady Raleigh and the eldest son Walter. From the Hatfield papers however we learn that James (probably in 1605) directed Cecil to convey all the royal " title and interest " to Lady Raleigh and her children ; this, however was not done.
1607. Mr. Gardiner next tells us that in 1607 Cecil, now Earl of Salisbury, (whose conduct throughout, in spite of what Mr. Gosse says, was I think contemptible) suggested to the King that the Sherborne Estate would be a suitable gift for Robert Carr or Carre, as it is spelt in the Digby MS., (this man was a Ker of Ferniehurst).
1608. The consequence of this was, that in Trinity Term 1608 the Attorney-General, Sir Henry Hobarte, exhibited a bill in the Court of Exchequer on the King's behalf against Sir Walter Raleigh, his son Walter and the Trustees, calling on them to show by what title Sir Walter's heirs held the reversion of the Manor. Sir Walter submitted the " Imperfect Deed," but on this occasion made no allusion to the previous conveyance of 1598. The Attorney-General made short work of the imperfect deed, maintained that the King was through Raleigh's attainder owner of the estate, that therefore after 60 years or after Raleigh's death the estates would come to the King. On the 27th October Raleigh's counsel came into court and admitted that the deed was void and on the 28th November, 1601, it was ordered by the Right " Hon<sup>ble</sup> Robert Earle of Salisbury Lord High

“ Treasurer of England Sir Julius Ceasar Kt. Chauncellor. and Undertreasurer of this Exchequer and the Barons of the same court that this Deed is of no force “ whatever.”

1609. Mr. Gardiner tells us that the King had in the meanwhile bought up for £5000 the interest, which by his grant of 1604 Lady Raleigh and her eldest son possessed ; thus the King was now at liberty to give the estate to Carr. The Digby MS. does not mention this step in the proceedings, but it must have occurred, for the Sherborne estate was granted by the King to Carr on the 9th January, 1609. Moreover there exists a writ dated 13th March, 1608, for the payment to Lady Raleigh's trustees of £5000 for the Sherborne estate ; the first instalment of this was to be paid in June 1609.

It is worth noticing that the Steward of Sherborne School never mentions Carr's name in the School accounts ; he mentions Raleigh by name and he mentions later on the Earl of Bristol by name ; but probably his sense of the fitness of things makes him pass over unnoticed the name of the shabby scoundrel, who had now become ' Lord of Sherborne.'

King James however, though he had thus taken away Raleigh's estates, had no intention of doing so without some compensation. On the 24th July 1609 articles of agreement were entered into between Robert Earl of Salisbury, Henry Earl of Northampton, Sir Julius Caesar and Sir Robert Carr of the one part, and Lord Carewe of Clapton, guardian of young Walter Raleigh, Sir Walter Raleigh, George Hull, Thomas Heriotts, John Shelburie, Robert Smyth, and Laurence Kemys of



the other part, to the following effect ; they of the one part agree to give security on behalf of the King to such persons as Sir Walter Raleigh may appoint for so much money " as may arise upon an indifferent survey to be " made of all the manors and profits late belonging to " Sir Walter Raleigh by Commissioners to be indiffer- " ently chosen on both sides, at the rate of 6 years pur- " chase." They also agree to pay a sum not exceeding £2000 " as by fines shall appear " upon the s<sup>d</sup> survey " may be justly raised out of the p'misses by the parties " now interested therein," though the tenants may refuse to compound for the same.

They further agree to procure from his majesty within four months an annuity of £400 a year to be paid to Lady Raleigh and her son Walter during their lives, provided neither of them ever hereafter raise any claim to the Sherborne estate.

Sir Walter Raleigh meanwhile had been referring to the old conveyance of 1598, which he had not in his possession nor did he know where it was, as he admits. But to make Carr's title quite secure, a new decree of the Court of Exchequer was issued on the 23rd November 1609 to the following effect : that the supposed conveyance of 1598 was made, if at all, upon secret trust and confidence to the only use and benefit of Sir Walter Raleigh and to be disposed at his will and pleasure, that it was void even if it existed and there was no evidence that it did exist or had ever been made, that if it should ever be found it was to be brought to that court to be delivered into the custody of the Lord High Treasurer for the King, and that by Raleigh's attainder the Sherborne Estate had passed to the King, who could do with it as he chose.

1610. The conclusion of the whole matter was arrived at on the 9th February, 1610, when Sir Walter Raleigh, Dame Elizabeth his wife, Walter Raleigh their son, Thomas Haryott, John Shelbury and Lawrence Kemys in consideration of £8000 paid to Sir Walter by the King, and in further consideration of an annuity of £400 a year to be paid to Lady Raleigh and her son Walter during their joint lives, did grant bargain and sell unto the King his heirs and successors all and singular the Castles, Manors, Lordships, Lands, Tenements, and heriditaments, whereof the said Sir Walter stood seized and possessed at the time of his Attainder.

The Trustees, to whom the annuity was to be paid for Lady Raleigh and her eldest son, were Sir Francis Darcy of Braynford, Middlesex, and Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, of Mycham, Surrey.

The £5000, which it was arranged should be paid to Lady Raleigh for her interest under the grant of 1604 was of course renounced, in consequence of this arrangement of 1610.

What then was the extent of the financial wrong done to Raleigh by this negotiation? It appears that in 1612, according to Mr. Gardiner, the annual value of the Sherborne Estate was rather over £750 a year. Seeing that the value of the land in James I's reign was estimated at 16 years' purchase, it follows that the value of the estate was then £12000, which in Mr. Gardiner's opinion is adequately represented by £8000 in cash and an annuity of £400 a year for the lives of Lady Raleigh and her eldest son. There is however evidence in existence, which does not agree with this.

On the 12th February, 1610, the King bought Sherborne from Carr for £20,000 (this date, I get from the Digby MS.) in order to present it to his son Prince Henry ; and when Carr bought it from the Crown on the 24th November, 1613, he paid £25,000 for it ; and further by the articles of agreement dated 24th July, 1609, the valuation of the estate, upon which the final transaction of the 9th February, 1610 was based, was made at the rate of *6 years' purchase*. It is certain therefore that the Raleighs did not get the fair market value of the estates. While therefore I do not go the length of some of Raleigh's biographers in holding that " James threw to the man from whom he had.....wrenched an estate worth £500 a year, a pittance which barely exceeded the annual rental of the land," I hold (a) that an English Court of Equity, uninfluenced by the King, could have declared the Imperfect Deed to be valid, for even in the beginning of the 17th century the Court of Chancery could have prevented such a gross injustice, as was here wrought by the Court of Exchequer, from being carried into effect, (b) that Raleigh's family were not adequately paid for the estate, which by an unfair decree was declared not to be theirs.

Mr. Gosse thinks that Sir Walter's first child was a daughter and that she was not born in wedlock ; there is no evidence of this. The child born in 1592 was surely Walter Raleigh, who matriculated at C.C.C. Oxford on the 30th April, 1607, aged 14, and he certainly was born in wedlock. Until I get stronger evidence against Sir Walter on this point, I will continue to believe that the story of his having a child by his wife before their secret marriage is one of the many calumnies under which he suffered. . . .

1616. In 1616 Carr forfeited the estate of Sherborne, when he was convicted of being accessory to the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, and in 1617 the king granted the Manor to Sir John Digby, Knt., afterwards created Earl of Bristol, for the sum of £10,000, to which purchase money must be added the sums which Sir John Digby spent in the king's service, especially on the embassy to Spain, where he served at his own charge.
1645. In 1645 the Parliament sequestrated the Sherborne estate, on the ground that the Earl of Bristol was a malignant; the Earl in consequence retired to Paris. In 1648, when the Earl of Bristol and his son Lord Digby were banished by Parliament, the rent-charge of £266 which had been reserved out of the Sherborne estate for the Bishops of Sarum was sold to Thomas Brown, Esq., for £2730, so that this Puritanical gentleman made what appeared to be a good bargain. However in 1660 this rent-charge once more reverted to the See of Sarum.
1651. Mr. Carew Raleigh, Sir Walter's younger and only surviving son, came before the committee for the sale of delinquent estates, and endeavoured to recover Sherborne Manor, placing before the committee the details of the mode in which his family had been deprived of the estate. In consequence of this the House of Commons in 1652 settled £500 a year on him out of the estate.
1660. In 1660 the Digby family recovered the Manor of Sherborne, which appears never actually to have found a purchaser, though it was let by the Government to Lady Brooke, during the Commonwealth period. The first Earl of Bristol had at one time been inclined to the

Parliamentary Cause, but when it came to the question of fighting the king, he like many other men went over to the Royalist side. At that terrible "parting of ways" it must have been difficult to see one's course clear, and on the head of even Charles I. the English crown was a venerable thing.

The Castle and the Civil War. The siege and destruction of Sherborne Castle by the Parliamentary forces, though not of the first importance in the history of the Civil War, is not without interest for us; and the story need not take very much space in telling.

There were two sieges of the Castle, one in 1642 and a second in 1645; the report of the first siege in Hutchins' *Dorset* certainly requires editing and I hope the following short account will be found clearer if not so elaborate.

First Seige. Even before the 22nd Aug. 1642 (when King Charles raised the royal standard at Nottingham) the Marquis of Hertford was down in the West attempting to raise men for the King; being hard pressed by Sir John Horner and Col. Alexander Popham at the head of the Somerset militia, he withdrew from Somerset on Sherborne. The Earl of Bedford was soon after him at the head of a considerable force and on the 2nd Sept. Bedford encamped in the fields to the N. of the Castle in the neighbourhood, where now is situated the big Reservoir of the Water Works; a line of trees on the E. of the lane, which leads from the Bristol Road to Dodge's Cross marks the spot, where he placed his battery. The town was strongly royalist and a skirmish took place on the 3rd in Westbury and Horsecastles between his foragers and the townsmen and on the following day several thatched houses in these quarters were burnt; on the 5th Bedford's battery opened fire with apparently not very serious results, for the range was

really too long. Meanwhile the Militia under Bedford's command had been deserting steadily and Hertford in the castle had received some reinforcements; Bedford therefore on the 6th withdrew to Yeovil. On the 7th an engagement took place between some of Bedford's men and some of Hertford's on Babylon Hill, in which the Royalists were defeated and fell back on Sherborne. Hereupon Bedford again advanced to Sherborne and resumed the siege which lasted until the 20th Sept., when Hertford was allowed to withdraw and went off to Wales. The whole story is a record of amateur soldiering and rather like a game at blind man's buff,—just what we find elsewhere at the beginning of the civil war.

In 1643, on the 12th February, Sir John Heale with a small royalist force drove the Parliamentary Commissioners out of Sherborne Castle; but on the 19th April Colonel Popham at Wells, hearing that Hertford and Lord Digby, the Earl of Bristol's eldest son, were on their way from Oxford to Sherborne, determined to intercept them; he sent an advanced party of cavalry to watch the town, but with orders not to enter it till the main body under his own command came up. This advanced party, 120 strong, disobeyed orders, tried to force its way into the town, and a serious skirmish took place between it and the townsmen at the Shambles, the ground in the angle between Half Moon Street and South Street, then an open space. The advanced party had one man killed and seven wounded; the townsmen had ten killed, but they forced the enemy to retire to Yeovil. On the 22nd Colonel Popham secured both town and castle, the town was pillaged, much damage done, and two of the School Governors suffered great loss; Mr. Josias Coothe (who went with his father to Oxford to get an usher in 1629) had property destroyed to the extent of £2000, and Mr. Hugh Hodges (who as Warden in 1650 had to give an order for the removal of the King's Arms from the School buildings) had three houses pulled down.

In 1644 the king, as we know, entirely out-generalled Essex in the West, and we find him lurching at a sort of picnic and review in Sherborne Park on the 2nd of October; Prince Rupert came from Bristol to see the king at Sherborne 29th September, 1644 (Sunday): he went back to Bristol on the following Sunday; on the 15th Oct. King Charles was at Salisbury; on the 27th as he was moving on Oxford he was attacked by Manchester and Cromwell at Newbury—the second battle of Newbury, which is the turning-point in the Civil War; for in consequence of it we get the Self-denying Ordinance and the New Model.

Second Siege. In 1645, after Naseby, we find the Castle of Sherborne occupied by Sir Lewis Dives (step-son of the Earl of Bristol) with his regiment, besides 150 veterans and some cavalry. In July Fairfax defeated Goring at Langport and on the 2nd August Fairfax and Cromwell reached Sherborne and determined to 'get' the castle; but the *Clubmen* of Wilts, Dorset and Somerset were gathered in threatening numbers in the neighbourhood. On this same 2nd August Col. Fleetwood dispersed a gathering of them at Shaftesbury, and again on the 4th August Cromwell marched with some cavalry from Sherborne to Shaftesbury; he found a body of clubmen holding Duncliff, which he induced to disperse; and learning that another body was occupying Hambledun Hill, he marched off in that direction. This body of Clubmen was occupying the old British earthworks there and showed fight, but Cromwell sent Major Desborow round to the rear of them, who "beat them from the works and did some small execution upon them," and they too were dispersed and the ringleaders taken prisoner.

Cromwell reported all this in a despatch to Fairfax written from Shaftesbury on the evening of the 4th (Cromwell's Letters, Carlyle, vol. i., p. 196). Carlyle goes on to tell us how "on Tuesday at night, August 5th, the Lieut.-Gen. Cromwell with

his party returned to Sherborne, where the General (Fairfax) and the rest were very busy besieging the inexpugnable Sir Lewis Dives. . . . The inexpugnable Sir Lewis Dives (a thrasonical person known to the readers of Evelyn) after due battering was now soon stormed; whereupon, by letters found on him, it became apparent how deeply Royalist this scheme of the Clubmen had been."

Sir Lewis Dives was the Baron Munchausen of the period, whom Evelyn described as "indeede a valiant gentleman, but not a little given to romance when he spake of himselfe."

The following is a brief account of the 'battering' Sir Lewis gets from Fairfax: The siege began on the 2nd August; the batteries this time were on the E., not on the N. On the 6th Capt. Horsey and Lieut. Clements were killed on the Parliamentary side and were buried next day in the Abbey, as the Parish Register testifies—Horsey with his ancestors in the N. transept. On the 12th August miners arrived from Mendip to aid in the siege, driving subterranean galleries and undermining the curtain. On the 14th a big breach was made in the curtain, and one of the curtain towers was captured, and the garrison was driven into the inner ward.

On the 15th at 2 a.m. Fairfax received the following letter from Sir Sir Lewis Dives:

Sir,

I must acknowledge the advantage you have of me, by being master of my walls; and, that you may not think me obstinate without reason, I have sent this drum unto you, to let you know, that if I may have such conditions from you as are fit for a soldier and a gentleman with honour to accept, I shall surrender this castle into your hands; otherwise I shall esteem it a far greater happiness to bury my bones in it, and the same resolution have all those that are with me. And give me leave to add



this, that your victory will be crowned with more honour by granting it than you will gain glory by winning it with the loss of as much blood as it will cost. I am, your servant,

Sherborne Castle, August 15, 1645.

L. Dives.

To this poetic effusion the answer of Fairfax was too prosaic ; “No terms but quarter, and he was not to expect that, except he surrendered immediately.” Fairfax completed his preparations for storming, and as the ‘inexpugnable’ made no signs of surrender, the final attack was made, and soon a white flag was hung out from the keep ; before Fairfax got the message, his men were in the keep and the ‘inexpugnable’ and the rest had flung down their arms, and cried for quarter, which was given. Few of the garrison were killed in the storm. In the castle were taken Sir Lewis Dives, his wife, Sir John Strangways, Col. Giles Strangways, a son of Lord St. John, Sir John Walcot, Sir ..... Cotton, Col. Thornhill, Col. Fussel, three Royalist M.P.’s several commissioners of array, 9 captains, 11 lieutenants, 3 cornets, 5 ensigns, 55 gentlemen of Wilts and Dorset, 10 clergymen, 600 rank and file, 1400 stand of Arms, 30 horses, 18 pieces of ordnance, a mortar, a murtherer, 60 barrels of gunpowder, a large stock of provisions and rich household stuff from the Modern Castle or Lodge, as it was then called. On the 16th the Parliamentary soldiers had an auction in Sherborne of their loot, and on the 18th the prisoners, including the leaders of the Clubmen, captured on the 4th, were sent off to be taken by sea to London. On the 21st Parliament ordered the castle to be ‘slighted’ *i.e.* so shattered by gunpowder, that it would be untenable in future, and this was done in the following October.

Out of the ruins of the old Castle have been built certain additions to the modern Castle, much of the stables, part of the garden walls and Castleton Church.

On the 15th March, 1648, the Earl of Bristol and his son Lord Digby were as I have noticed, banished by Parliament and their

estates confiscated ; and four of the School Governors had their estates sequestrated as malignants, but they were afterwards allowed to redeem them ; they were Josias Coothe, who compounded for £73, Henry Durnford who compounded for £281, Hugh Hodges who compounded for £200 and John Williams who compounded for £19.

The Modern  
Castle.

The modern castle, as we now see it, is built in the form of the letter H. That part of it represented by the horizontal stroke was built by Sir Walter Raleigh ; the two wings represented by the perpendicular strokes were added after the Restoration by the second Earl of Bristol, who used the ashlar and other stonework of the old castle for the purpose. Here, William, Prince of Orange, stayed in 1688, on his advance from Torquay to London ; and it is said that his proclamation to the English People was printed in the drawing-room, at a printing press set up on the great hearth-stone, which was broken by it. The modern castle contains many interesting portraits, a fine library and the valuable Digby papers which Mr. S. R. Gardiner has used in his History of England in the 17th century. The tapestry given by the King of Spain to the first Earl of Bristol cannot now be identified, and is perhaps no longer in the castle. It was probably taken after the siege of 1645. In the Dairy is a tessellated Roman pavement discovered close by the level-crossing over the L. & S.W.R. near Lenthay Common ; a sitting figure is represented playing on a six-stringed lyre and another figure is represented dancing and playing on a double pipe ; the border round the pavement is very good. Of course Raleigh's seat is pointed out ; here he sat smoking and was drenched by a servant pouring a flagon of ale over him, because he thought Raleigh was on fire.

Pinford Bridge was built by the first Earl of Bristol, and the plantation on Jerusalem Hill is said to have been suggested by

Alexander Pope, who has left us a description of the Modern Castle, in one of his letters to Miss Blount. Pope was often the guest of and professed a great respect and love for William, the good Lord Digby, as he was called. It was this Lord Digby who rebuilt Castleton Church and this is how Pope describes that quaint edifice to Miss Blount : " The next pretty thing " that caught my eye was a neat little chapel for the use of the " town's people (who are too numerous for the cathedral). My lord modestly told me he was glad I liked it, because it was of his own architecture."

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## CHAPTER XI.

### THE HOSPITAL OF S. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND S. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

This venerable institution, commonly called The Almshouse stands at the S.W. corner of the Church Close, probably on the site of a hospital of the order of S. Augustine. Mr. Harston was of opinion that the present foundation was in some way connected with the Austin hospital, but there is, so far as I know, no evidence of this ; he also states without giving his authority that in 1406 the Benedictines founded a hospital on what he calls the base of the Austin hospital.

Almshouse founded in 1437.	The present institution was refounded in 1437 by a license from King Henry VI. to Robert Neville, Bishop of Sarum, Humphrey Stafford, Knt., Margaret Goghe or Gough, John Fauntleroy and John Baret, in honour of S. John Baptist and S. John Evangelist ; there were to be twenty brethren, called the Masters of SS. Johns' House, together with a perpetual Priest to pray for the good estate and the souls of
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the founders and inmates. The house was to contain twelve poor men and four poor women, who were to be governed by one of themselves called Prior of their own election and a woman of domestic ability, to buy and dress their food, wash their clothes and make their beds, who should be called the Housewife of SS. Johns' House.

The license of the King to the founders is a very fine piece of illuminated work, which at present is shut up in a box but might very well be put under glass, where those who visit the house might see it. The Rules made by the founders are also finely engrossed on vellum and spaces are left for the Illuminated Initial Letters which have never been put in, as is often the case in MSS. Besides these documents there are deeds relating to property now held by the Almshouse, dating from the 14th century; one, an *inspeximus* by Roger Mortival, Bishop of Sarum, 1315-1330, of a *carta* of the great Roger, Bishop of Sarum, is a most beautiful specimen of handwriting.

**The Building.** The older part of the building was finished in 1448, and here are placed the chapel, ante-chapel and dining-hall with dormitories on the first floor; at right angles to this building on its West side are the offices now rebuilt and enlarged.

**Enlarged 1850.** From 1448 to 1858 no further addition appears to have been made to the buildings; in the latter year some cottages were bought in the Church Close and the premises were then enlarged.

**Further addition, 1866.** In 1865 Mr. James Short left by will to the Master and Brethren nearly £4000, and in 1866 William Naish Allford, Esq., gave to them some buildings adjacent. Thus the Master and Brethren were able not only to increase the number of inmates of the House, but also to erect the present East wing, provide

additional dormitories and a fine room called the board-room together with other improvements.

Chapel. The Chapel is perhaps the most interesting part of the building ; it will be noticed that the East window is placed very high in the wall ; the object of this was to leave room for the altar-piece, a most remarkable triptych of which a description is given below.

Owing to the " vigorous Protestant feeling " of an earlier generation this really fine relic of the Middle Age was consigned to obscurity and the doors of it were grained in " imitation oak " lest the minds of the inmates should be corrupted by the sight of the saints represented thereon, and possibly the picture itself was carefully locked. A less stringent view of these matters has since then prevailed ; the triptych is now restored to its ancient position, no one appears to be one penny the worse for this except the curious who go to see it ; and if they are so, it is reasonable to infer that the old " Bedeman " (as he used to be called), who shows the picture, thereby secures some extra pocket money. The South window of the Chapel still retains fragments of the old stained glass ; it is of three lights and resembles the Abbey windows of the same period. In the centre light is a figure of the Virgin crowned, carrying the Holy Child in her arms ; the Virgin's face is very fine, the figure of the child is all but destroyed. In the other two lights are the two SS. John, the Evangelist identified by the palm and chalice, the Baptist by the lamb. Below are the instruments of the passion and the I.N.R.I., and in the tracery of the window-head the figures of the four Evangelists.

The Chapel is separated from the Ante-Chapel by a very striking perpendicular arch and an oak screen ; above the screen is a gallery for the women.

Dining hall, &c. A doorway from the ante-chapel leads into Trendle Street ; on either side of this door in the external wall are two niches, which once contained the statues of the two SS. John. This till 1866 was the principal entrance to the building. The old dining hall is quaint and comfortable, and here round the fire the old men sit ; the old dames have a comfortable sitting-room of their own in the new part of the building.

Boardroom. The Boardroom is decidedly worth a visit ; in its east end is a very pretty oriel window and the timber-roof is good.

Rules. The following is the code of rules to be observed in the house :—

1. The poor men and women of this house shall regularly attend Divine Service in the Chapel.
2. They shall constantly and regularly attend the public worship of Almighty God in the Church.
3. They shall go to and from Church decently and in good order, two and two, according to the custom of this house.
4. If any or either of them shall be guilty of profane cursing and swearing, of drunkenness, or of promoting strife and debate, such offender shall be expelled this house.
5. They shall not perform any sort of work or labour for money, or for any other gratuity whatever, but shall live by the alms of this house.
6. They shall behave with due respect to the prior of this house, who is called the Prior of SS. Johns' House.
7. If any poor man or woman of this house shall refuse or neglect to observe any or either of these rules or orders, the Prior shall immediately acquaint the Master of this house for the time being with such refusal and neglect.

If the weather be such that it is deemed imprudent for the old people to attend the public worship of the Church, the service of the Book of Common Prayer is read in their own Chapel by the Prior and every Thursday the perpetual Priest supplies a service and sermon. It has been usual to appoint the Vicar perpetual Priest, but in some cases the appointment has been held by the Headmaster or Usher of the School. A complete history of this Institution cannot be written till the old Accounts have been studied, which would be a work of time and of some difficulty, but it ought to be done.

The Corporation of the Masters of SS. Johns' House, commonly called the Master and Brethren, manage not only this Charity but several others, a list of which will be given below. The revenues are under the control of a Steward, one of the Brethren, and the whole is governed by a Master, appointed by the Brethren, on the feast of S. John the Evangelist, to hold office for one year. Another of the Brethren is chosen Sub-master at the same time, nor can any one serve as Master, till he has served as Sub-master.

When Sherborne School was refounded, the individuals composing the Corporation of SS. Johns' House were nominated by Edward VI. members of the Corporation of the Governors of the School. But these two Corporations were in law two distinct bodies owning different estates and furnishing separate accounts; from 1550 to 1870 a man, who was elected a Brother of the House, was immediately afterwards elected a Governor of the School. There was however no necessity for this, except perhaps the difficulty of finding a sufficient number of suitable men to hold office in both Corporations, so long as it was necessary for the members of each to be parishioners of Sherborne. The head of one Corporation was never, so far as I have yet traced the subject, the head of the other Corporation at the same time.

Each official in each Corporation had his own bunch of keys, and as there were several difficult locks to each of the chests in which the cash and deeds of each institution were kept, no confusion of accounts nor any unauthorised expenditure in either Corporation could take place, except by collusion of all the officials. There are two ancient chests, each with several locks, in the Boardroom; one of these is no doubt the School-chest so often mentioned in the old School Accounts.

Founders and Benefactors of the House. The original founders, mentioned in the licence of Henry VI. and already noted, were Robert Neville, Bishop of Sarum 1427—1438, Humphrey Stafford Knt., who gave £10 and 8 loads of timber; Margaret Goghe or Goffe, widow, Lady of Langton near Blandford, who gave one messuage called Julian on the Green in Sherborne; John Fauntleroy, gent, of Fauntleroy's Marsh, who gave £20 and 80 loads of timber, and his wife £5; John Baret, whose benefaction Hutchins does not mention. Besides these Hutchins tells us that Elizabeth Latimer, widow, gave lands at Yetminster Spittle and Bere Hacket, and Richard Beauchamp Bishop of Sarum 1450—1482 was also a benefactor.

A printed tablet in the boardroom gives a further list of benefactors:

- a. In 1589 Peter Game of Sherborne, gent, gave money to purchase land to maintain one poor man in the house for ever; his descendants still exercise the right to nominate an inmate of the house.
- b. In 1589 William Masters of Sherborne, gent, gave £50<sup>l</sup> to maintain one poor woman.
- c. In 1589 Sir John Horsey, Knt. gave £10 per annum out of the prebend of Sherborne for the remainder of his term to be employed "in stock to set on work" and to maintain the poor.



- d.* In 1589 William Knoyle of Sherborne, gent, gave £46 13s. 4d. to be employed in loans.
- e.* In 1689 David Llewellen gave £10 to remain in stock for ever to be employed for the benefit of the poor.
- f.* In 1721 Simon Whetcombe gave £50 to be lent free to poor tradesmen of Sherborne. These three benefactions (*d, e, f*) are now consolidated and the money lent without interest to poor tradesmen of Sherborne.
- g.* In 1628 John Foster, by will dated 21st Dec., gave £200 for the benefit of the poor as stock for ever, to be used as the Master and Brethren shall decide.
- h.* In 1629 Agnes Boughton, by indenture dated 16th January, granted lands in Thornford for binding poor children as apprentices.
- i.* In 1640 Richard Foster, by deed dated 19th July, gave to the Master and Brethren his lands at Boys Hill for the education and clothing of 10 poor boys and 10 poor maids and from the surplus of the rents £5 per annum to maintain one of the said boys at the University and the balance to the poor.
- k.* In 1743 William, Lord Digby, by indenture dated 15th September, gave Ashcombe, in the parish of Caundle Marsh, for the education and clothing of 13 poor girls; he also gave a dwelling-house and garden in Sherborne for a charity school for girls and a house for the mistress thereof.
- l.* In 1668 John Eastment of Sherborne, Esquire, by will dated 26th October, left £100 to be improved to the best advantage, and the yearly produce to buy necessary garments for such poor of Sherborne as are not maintained by the Almshouse.

- m.* In 1686 Dorothy Eastment, by will dated 15th December, gave £50 to be invested, the interest to be applied to buying of linen changes for poor wives and widows of Sherborne.
- n.* In 1687 John Earl of Bristol, by will dated 6th April, gave £200 to be put out as stock for the benefit of the poor, the income thereof to be given yearly to the poorest house-keepers in the town, as the Master and Brethren with the consent of the Lord of the Manor shall think fit, "but not lessen the ordinary rates" (*sic*).
- o.* Mr. Smith, gentleman to the above Earl of Bristol, gave £100 for the benefit of the poor of Sherborne.

These two benefactions (*n. o.*) are invested in lands at Nether Compton, and the rent is distributed to the poor in crown pieces on the feast of S. John the Evangelist yearly.

- p.* In 1720 Robert Avoke of Sherborne, by will dated the 27th May, gave property in Sherborne to the Master and Brethren, to the intent that they should lay out the rent in buying bread for the poor of Sherborne.
- q.* In 1805 Charles Bull Hart gave £50 to be placed in Government securities and the interest is to be used to provide . . . for as many poor old women in Sherborne, as the same would enable them to purchase.
- r.* In 1821 the Rev. Charles Toogood, by will dated the 15th June, gave £200 to be invested in the public funds to provide great coats for old men in Sherborne, as the Master and Brethren shall direct.
- s.* Susannah Toogood, widow of the above, gave by will certain property, to clothe and educate one poor girl of the parish of Sherborne; the first girl was elected on the 4th May, 1841; this girl was to receive her education at William Lord Digby's and Foster's School.

Out of such of these charities as could be so applied, comes the endowment of Foster's Grammar School in Sherborne.

The two following benefactions are commemorated on a brass tablet inserted in the N. wall of the boardroom :

- t.* In 1865 James Short gave the residue of his estate £3814 14s. for the use of the Almshouse.
- u.* In 1866 William Naish Alford of Sherborne, Esquire, J.P., gave certain buildings adjacent to the Almshouse; by means of the above benefactions (*t, u*) the Master and Brethren were enabled to increase the number of the inmates, to erect the E. wing, to provide additional dormitories, a boardroom and other improvements. There are now eighteen old men and nine old women in the house.

In 1836 the Master and Brethren submitted the triptych to Mr. N. Whittock of London, whose opinion of it is given below. It has since his day been cleaned and the "imitation oak" graining removed from the doors. The following is the Report of Mr. Whittock :

*Sherborne, December 6th, 1836.*

GENTLEMEN,—Having done me the honour of employing me to clean and repair a Picture placed in your Council-room, and having been solicited by several gentlemen to give a description of it, I have, in the following remarks, endeavoured to do so to the extent of my humble ability :—

Hutchins, the elaborate historian of the county of Dorset, gives the following description of the Picture, as it appeared in his time :—" In the room above stairs, where the Government meet to transact business, is a very curious ancient painting upon oak in high preservation. It was probably given by the founder as an altar-piece for the Chapel. The figures are in the dress,

and the representations of building in the style of the 15th century. This picture consists of three pieces—the centre is four feet two inches long, by three feet three inches high; the other two, which fold over the centre like the doors of a cabinet, are painted on both sides; they are each one foot eleven inches wide, by three feet three inches high; exclusive of the ancient frame. The painting on the centre and inside, of the doors, represents three of our Saviour's most remarkable miracles. Upon the outside are figures of four Apostles. The whole painting is very beautiful, and was evidently executed by a masterly hand. The colours are extremely clear and bright, and, except being mellowed by time, the whole is as perfect as when it came from the master's hand."

It is much to be regretted that even this slight description, by so creditable an author, did not awaken attention to this valuable picture; it certainly, at the present time, requires repair in many parts, notwithstanding which it still retains great brilliancy of colouring, and is, perhaps, the most ancient oil coloured picture in the kingdom; and is still in a wonderful state of preservation, and is worthy of being ranked among the best productions of the early Italian masters, who flourished about the middle of the 15th century; it is greatly superior, in point of colouring, to any of Hans Holbein, who was the first painter of eminence that was employed in England, and the picture itself proves that it was placed here long prior to the Reformation, in the reign of Henry VIII., as no picture would have been admitted in an establishment of this kind, where God the Father is represented as a venerable personage, attired in pontifical robes, having an orb or globe, surmounted with a cross, in his left hand, and in one of the compartments here is an Augustine Friar. The conjecture of Hutchins is probably correct, that it was presented by the founder, as an altar-piece for the Chapel, and removed from the Chapel after the Reformation; and, if I might hazard an opinion, I should say it was the production of

a painter named Cosmo Roselli, who attained great eminence in painting scriptural subjects. I have seen etchings from his pictures, and two originals, and, from my recollection of their style, I should think this picture was produced by that painter. He lived to a great age, and died in 1484.

The picture is painted on oak paneling, over which is spread a thin ground of whiting. The drawing, for the period, is excellent ; the colouring transparent, vivid and beautiful ; the figures are well grouped ; the heads are finely painted, and the drapery flowing and graceful.

Centre Compart- There are five distinct miracles represented  
ment. in the three compartments. The centre  
Resurrection of compartment represents the Resurrection  
Lazarus. of Lazarus, so beautifully described in the  
11th chapter of the Gospel according to St.  
John. This remarkable transaction took place within the walls of Bethany. The painter has represented the wall and towers seen behind it in a comparatively modern style of architecture ; but the buildings are well painted and in good keeping. A path from the gates of the town leads to the cave or tomb of Lazarus, which is in the centre of the foreground of the picture. On the right of the grave stands Jesus Christ, and around him are the twelve apostles. The countenance of our Saviour is particularly placid. Martha, the kind and active sister of Lazarus, stands by the side of our Saviour, she having accompanied him from the house to the tomb. Her dress is in the oriental style, and particularly splendid ; her turban is richly adorned with jewellery ; her tunic is of crimson velvet, gorgeously embroidered with gold ; the lower part of the sleeves are black velvet ;—the whole must have been exceedingly splendid when executed ; it is still sparkling and distinct, though somewhat dimmed by time and neglect. In the centre of the picture the stone is removed from the grave, and Lazarus is rising from the grave, at the command of the Lord ; the grave cloths are dropping from the body,

and a benevolent friend is in the act of removing the napkin from the head of Lazarus. The attitude and countenance of the reanimated man is particularly impressive, and has never been excelled by the numerous representations of the same subject. At the back of her brother is seen the figure of the mild, gentle, and affectionate Mary, who is in a kneeling position, looking with grateful ecstasy towards the Saviour. The attitude and countenance of the grave digger, leaning on his spade, are particularly fine, while the highly finished dresses of the two figures behind Mary, who appear from their attire to be of different countries—the one may represent the Roman centurion, as he is in a military garb of the 15th century ; the other a Jew in rich dress may represent Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, whose daughter was restored to life by Christ. Above all is the Deity, looking down from the heavens attired in the garb of a Roman pontiff as before observed.

Right compartment—Casting out the devil.

The lower part of the compartment on the right represents the miracle of Jesus casting out the devil from the dumb man, as described in the 9th chapter of St.

Mark. Our Saviour is here accompanied by his disciples who had previously tried to work this miracle. Jesus appears to have raised the man from the earth and the evil spirit is departing from his mouth. The attire and attitude of the demon is worthy of Milton ;—it is not the ridiculous Panlike figure, with horns and tail, as even celebrated artists of our own times have represented such infernal beings, but a spirit of power, incased in armour, with a mitre on his head, enraged at being overpowered, blaspheming as he quits the body of the sufferer. The demon is very small, but is elaborately painted ; his colour is a sickly green. The father of the dumb is standing in the group, holding the instrument of correction in his hand, as if showing that the most painful remedies had been used to whip the offending demon from his son. The Pharisees, who cannot doubt the truth of the

miracle, yet ascribe it to evil means, are well painted. The whole of this group is in good preservation, and this compartment alone is a highly valuable and curious cabinet picture.

**Blind restored to sight.** In one corner of the upper part of this compartment is a miniature representation of the blind restored to sight, as described in the 9th chapter of St. Mark, 22nd and following verses. The blind man is in a kneeling attitude, and Christ is anointing his eyes; only two disciples are in the group. The blind man is brought to Jesus by two women. The Architecture, the small subjects painted in the windows being outlines of Israel blessing Jacob, and Abraham offering up his son Isaac, are beautifully and spiritedly drawn.

**Left Compartment,—Christ restores to life the widow's son** The lower part of the left compartment, represents the miracle of Christ restoring the life of the widow's son at the gate of Nain, recorded in the 7th chapter of St. Luke, 12th verse. This compartment is nearly as perfect as it came from the hands of the painter; the colour is exceedingly rich, the body of the widow's son is starting from the bier at the command of the Saviour; the widow is kneeling at the feet of our Lord, pouring forth her gratitude for this stupendous manifestation of his power; her attire is simple, but graceful; the drapery is remarkably bold, greatly superior to that produced by Holbein or Albert Durer; the latter has painted the same subject, and has grouped his figures nearly in the same way; the splendour of colouring displayed in the cloth of gold around the pall, and on one of the figures is astonishing; it is in this subject that the friar is introduced supporting the widow.

**Christ restoring to life the daughter of Jairus.** In the left hand corner of this compartment, is a miniature representation of Christ restoring life to the daughter of Jairus, or the Chief of the Synagogue recorded. The

father of the child is richly attired : the simple, but beautiful figure of the reanimated child, is exquisitely finished, showing a delicacy of touch that cannot be exceeded.

Having given this inadequate description of these pictures, it may be useful for those that live at a future time to know that the utmost care has been used in removing the thick repeated coverings of varnish with which this picture has been covered, and that at the present time it has but a thin covering of mastick varnish, which, when necessary, may be removed by the simplest means. It will be many years before it will be required to be revarnished, but this should be executed only by a person that is used to painting pictures in oil, as the delicate colouring will not bear being roughly handled. It is not for me to speak of what I have done ; every gentleman here is aware of the appearance of the pictures before they came into my hands, and I trust duly aware of their excellence and value ; I have endeavoured to preserve and restore them to the utmost of my power.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obliged servant,

34, Richard-street, Islington, London.

N. WHITTOCK.

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I print Mr. Whittock's letter *verbatim* of course and decline all responsibility for his syntax. Experts now declare this picture to be by some Flemish artist.

To have been the capital of the newer Wessex, and the seat of its Bishopric, to have been the centre of the one district which successfully withstood the Dane, while Alfred gathered his forlorn hope in the marshes of Athelney beneath our own downs, to have been through long ages a home of religion and learning, to have linked with its own the names of Ealdhelm and Stephen Harding, and Raleigh, these are the claims which Sherborne has to a niche in history. The men, who won the day for



Alfred at Edington, made England and all that has come out of England possible.

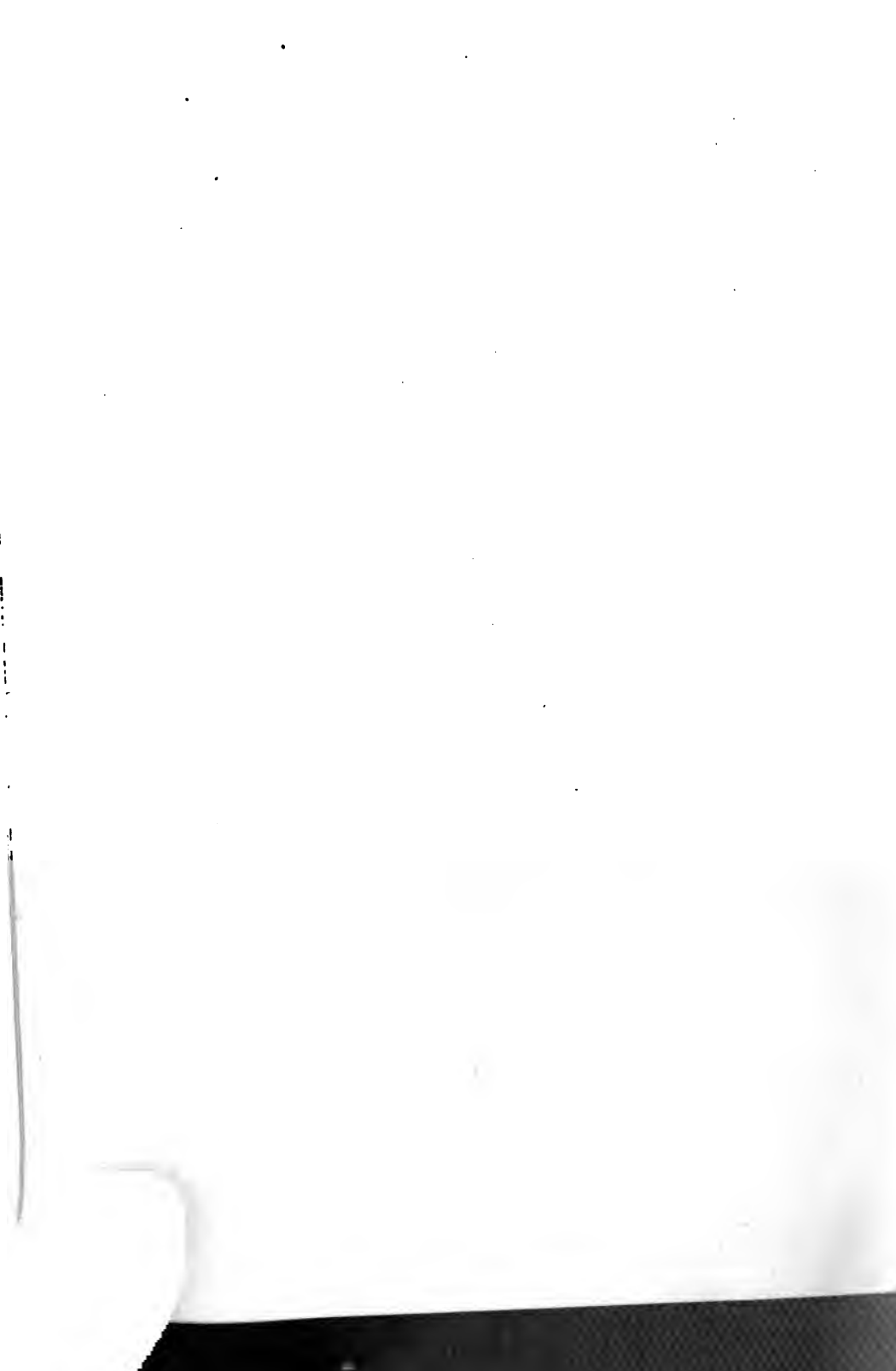
Much of the glory of Sherborne is a thing of the past ; it was shattered, partly by the upheaval of the Norman Conquest, partly by the blows of the *Malleus Monachorum*. But the Abbey Church still rises in well nigh undiminished splendour above the old town, and the venerable buildings of the School still keep much of the shape of the Benedictine House, to which it and they once belonged.

To all who have done good work for Sherborne, Town or School,

Quique sacerdotes casti, dum uita manebat,  
 Quique pii uates et Phoebos digna locuti,  
 Inuentas aut qui uitam excoluere per artes,  
 Quique sui memores alios fecere merendo.

to all that godly band, known, or unknown to fame, I dedicate this short story of the place.

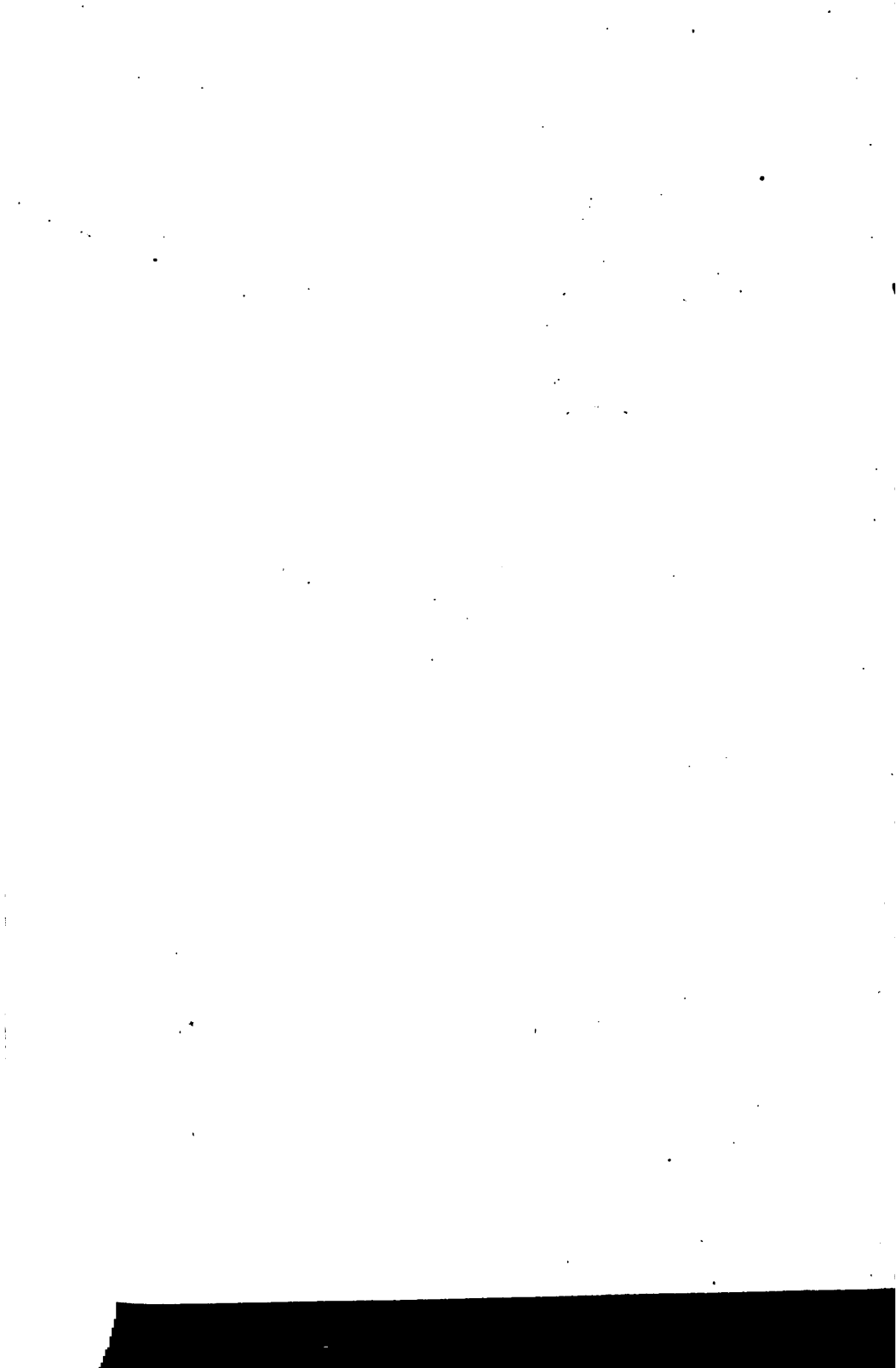










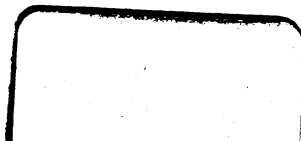


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